

Former State Journal Feature Writer Dies

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ESCANABA WAS HOME

The soft-spoken, good humored writer who though of Escanaba as home and remained devoted to the scenery and people of Michigan's "U.P.," joined The State Journal staff in 1963.

During a career beginning in 1927, he had worked for newspapers in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Ohio.

His Escanaba Press affiliation, spanning more than 30 years, prompted residents there to credit him with helping to make that town "one of the finest communities in the North."

Duchaine, taken ill earlier this summer, reportedly died following emergency surgery.

He and his wife, Helen, had moved to the coastal community to be near a daughter, Mrs. Sam Matthew Berge of El Cajon.

Other survivors include another daughter, Mrs. Charles D. Foster of Washington, D.C., two sons James William of New York City and Richard H. of Dayton Ohio. Four grandsons and

granddaughters also receive wages, 120



WILLIAM J. DUCHAINE

William J. Duchaine, a former State Journal feature writer whose lighthearted railroad and area history stories delighted thousands of faithful readers, died Tuesday evening in an El Cajon, Calif., hospital.

Duchaine, 67, had moved to California following his retirement last December.

Private funeral services are scheduled this afternoon and burial will be in El Cajon.

He was a lifelong newsman who brought celebrities and non- celebrities alive in spirited accounts of 50-year high school reunions and scientific developments in Michigan's sugar bush industry.

PROLIFIC WRITER

A prolific writer, Duchaine provided features for publication in The State Journal outlasting his retirement by several months.

He traveled widely through the mid-Michigan area, camera in hand, capturing an unofficial reporting record for consistently uncovering the largest number of interesting stories in the shortest amount of time.

He once spent several days in the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph area collecting piles of notes and background material for an in-depth study of The House of David.

His interests extended to horse-shoe pitching at Dimondale, the real stores behind Lansing area historical sites and markers, and fascinating tales of hermits and heroes.

Duchaine, who encountered the known and unknown as a reporter but soon became a friend, formed lasting alliances and his telephone rang intermittently for several weeks following his departure.

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