

Edwin R. Burger Jr., 77, former mayor of Wenonah

By Claudia Vargas
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Edwin R. Burger Jr., 77, former councilman and mayor of Wenonah who was a longtime businessman in the small Gloucester County borough, died of cancer Friday, Nov. 5, at his retirement home in Summerfield, Fla.

Even before he became involved in town politics, Mr. Burger was a Mr. Wenonah.

"He was an active person around town ... was involved in Little League," said former Wenonah Mayor Jack Sheppard, who suggested Mr. Burger fill a vacant council seat in the 1980s. "He was a natural for that."

Mr. Burger, along with his father, Edwin Burger Sr., founded Edwin R. Burger &

Son Fence Co. in Barnsboro in 1953.

They started out doing home remodeling and kitchen repairs, said son Edwin Burger 3d. Then they started putting in storm windows and fences, for which they became well known.

Mr. Burger was always working on some project. "If he didn't have a job, he wasn't happy," his son said.

Mr. Burger retired from the family business in 1997. His sons now run it.

He served on Borough Council from 1982 to 1994, when he was elected mayor.

As mayor, Mr. Burger was one of the main people to push for the current Town Hall, which houses the Police Department, public works, courthouse, and other municipal offices, his son said.

Aside from that project, Mr. Burger focused on keeping Wenonah intact, complete with the small-town charm its residents value, Sheppard said.

Elected mayors usually try to preserve Wenonah the way they found it and not intrude too much, Sheppard said. He added that Mr.

Burger fit that description and was "totally devoted to the community. Honest and sincere."

Mr. Burger served as mayor through 2002. Six years later, he moved to Florida with his wife, Jean.

Mr. Burger was born in Philadelphia and moved to Mantua when he was a young boy. He graduated from Pitman High School in 1953, and in 1954 he married his high school sweetheart, Jean L. Collis.

The couple lived in Mantua until 1963, when they moved to Wenonah.

In addition to his wife and son, Mr. Burger is survived by sons Frank and Mark; daughter Sheree Watson; his mother, Alva M. Burger; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, and from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 15, at Smith Funeral Home, 47 Main St. in Mantua. The funeral will follow at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 15, at the funeral home.

Contact staff writer Claudia Vargas at 856-779-3917 or cvargas@phillynews.com.



Edwin R. Burger Jr.

Funeral Announcements

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GERTRUDE (nee Barnow) November 12, 2010, beloved wife of Samuel; loving mother of Kenneth and Andrea Schapiro and Alan and Phyllis Schapiro; devoted grandmother of Brett, Nadia, Michelle and Alicia. Relatives and friends are invited to Funeral services Sunday 12 Noon precisely GOLDSTEINS' ROSENBERG'S RAPHAEL SACKS, 6410 N. Broad St. Interment Roosevelt Memorial Park. Contributions

Edwin R. Burger, Jr.



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