

Town Meeting's 'Uncle Louie' dies

By Jeanne Bracken

Louis M. "Uncle Louie" Stoffel, 71, of 46 Dahlia Drive, Littleton, died at the Nashoba Community Hospital in Ayer on May 5, after a lengthy illness. He was born in Boston August 8, 1914, son of the late Louis and Helen (Hahn) Stoffel. He was married for 35 years to Winnifred (Cunniffe) Stoffel, who died in 1978, and was married in 1985 to Pauline (Carignon) Dion.

[See obituary on page 7 and editorial page 4.]

Attending Brockton High, which was a big football school, "Uncle Louie" learned to love the sport but was too small to play. He compensated, however, by boosting "his" teams for the rest of his life.

"When I was in football and baseball," said Ken White, "he never missed a game. I knew him in Waltham. Then when I moved here 30 years ago, gosh, there was Louie! He wasn't just a friend, he was loyal to everything he believed in, a nice guy."

Stoffel was vocal in his support of the football team at Littleton High School, rarely missing a game and always predicting the score ahead of time. Beyond attendance at the events, he presented one athlete with a scrapbook of newspaper clippings after a particularly successful season.

"He was a great supporter of the sport teams and the band for many years," noted Barbara Whitcomb of the Littleton Sports Boosters. "Everybody waited for his prediction. Last year at the senior sports awards, 'Uncle Louie' was named the first recipient of the Tiger of the Year Award. Hearing of his death, we're glad he was the first choice. He was a super supporter of the program."

An active participant at Town Meeting for many years, Stoffel was noted for his passion and his sense of humor.

"When he thought something, he said it, good or bad," remembered Russell Lawrence, who

also served with Louis for years on the Democratic Town Committee. "He helped organize the regional Nashoba Democratic Committee." Stoffel also worked to increase the real estate tax exemption for elderly people when the Legislature mandated all properties be assessed at full value.

With Lennie Fougsted, Albert Pickard and Lennie Kress, Louis played cribbage every Friday night.

"His mission in life was to be a friend to everyone. I'm going to miss Louie," said White.

Stoffel is survived by his wife Pauline of Littleton; a son Michael E. Stoffel of Pepperell; daughters Mrs. William (Sheila) Lauer of E. Granby, CT., and Mrs. Lt. William (Linda) Graves of Huntsville, AL; a brother, Fred Stoffel of Upton, and nine grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Anne's in Littleton on Wednesday at 10 a.m. Burial was at Westlawn Cemetery, Littleton.

8 May 1986

Louis M. Stoffel

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Mr. Stoffel spent his early life in Lincoln, where he attended local schools. After attending St. John's Prep, he graduated from Brockton High School in 1933. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and later the U.S. Forest Service.

During World War II Mr. Stoffel worked at Fore River Shipyard as a loftsmen. He was then employed at the Hartnett Tannery (1946-1952), McElroy Electronics in Littleton and later as a union carpenter.

From 1964 until his retirement in 1979, Mr. Stoffel was a salesman for Atlantic Pre-Hung Door in Concord.

Mr. Stoffel had been a member of the Littleton Civic League, a Charter Member of the Littleton-Westford Elks, member of the Littleton

etown Grange, treasurer of the Littleton Democratic Town Committee, and first chairman of the Littleton Housing Authority, and was instrumental in the construction of the town's first elderly housing at Pine Tree Park.

He was also Littleton's Representative to the Silver Haired Legislature in Boston, and was a representative of the District Council of Carpenters Local #540 of Waltham.

Mr. Stoffel was a communicant of St. Anne's Church of Littleton and a member of the Holy Name Society.

He is survived by his wife Pauline Carignon Dion Stoffel of Littleton; a son Michael E. Stoffel of Pepperell; two daughters: Mrs. William (Sheila) Lauer of East Granby, Connecticut, and Mrs. William (Linda) Graves of Huntsville, Alabama; a brother Fred Stoffel of Upton; and nine grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Anne's Church in Littleton on Wednesday at 10 a.m. Burial was at Westlawn Cemetery, Littleton. Funeral Directors William A. Badger and Sons.

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