

Union Ex-Teamster attorney Bufalino dies

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to be a priest. Instead, he became a high-profile advocate for Hoffa, the former national Teamsters' president who became famous for his mysterious disappearance in 1975.

Mr. Bufalino also served as president of Teamsters Local 985 through 21 years of its turbulent history, which included bombing incidents when the local sought to organize car wash employees in the mid-1950s.

His son, William Bufalino Jr., also an area lawyer, said his father was quick to defend himself from links to the Mafia and organized crime, carefully guarding his name and reputation.

"He never defended anyone in the Mafia," the son said Saturday. "He was a lawyer's lawyer and a leader in the legal community. I pray to be able to stand in his shadow one day."

Federal Court of Appeals Judge Ralph B. Guy Jr., one-time U.S. attorney who opposed Mr. Bufalino in the Hoffa years, recalled him "as a fierce competitor who threw himself 100 percent into representing his clients."

In 1959, Mr. Bufalino sued the Grosse Pointe Homeowners Association and real estate agents after learning he had been denied the right to buy a home in the suburb because of a system that rated people on a point system according to ethnicity. Although he lost the suit because the



William E. Bufalino (left) with James R. Hoffa and Robert Holmes in 1958. Bufalino spent nearly 25 years representing Hoffa and the Teamsters.

point system was not widely disseminated, Michigan soon adopted its Fair Housing Act.

Mr. Bufalino's legal career was closely entwined with Hoffa, starting in 1947, when they met in court after Teamsters picketed the lawyer's joke box distribution company.

THE LAWYER severed their relationship in 1971 with an 11-page handwritten letter to Hoffa in federal prison, saying he did not want anyone else to read it. In the same year, Hoffa was released after serving five years for jury tampering.

Later, Mr. Bufalino said that after

representing Hoffa as major counsel in seven trials in major U.S. cities, and winning five, he had finally decided Hoffa was a man who used people for his own gain.

After Hoffa disappeared in 1975 from a Bloomfield Township parking lot, the lawyer often was asked what he thought had happened. Mr. Bufalino theorized the CIA had asked Hoffa to have Chicago Mafia boss Sam Giancana arrange for assassination of Cuban leader Fidel Castro. In return, the Mafia would be allowed free reign to run Havana gambling. But Giancana was shot to death in his Chicago home in 1975. Accord-

ing to Mr. Bufalino's theory, because Hoffa was involved in the intrigue, he had to be killed to insure his silence.

Mr. Bufalino recently told a reporter and friend, "If I die and run into Jimmy Hoffa on the other side, I'm going to ask him, 'Jimmy, what the hell happened to you?'"

IN 1976, Mr. Bufalino represented five New Jersey Teamsters who had been linked to Hoffa's disappearance.

Earlier, Mr. Bufalino testified before the Kefauver and McClellan committees that investigated ties between labor and organized crime in

the 1950s. He sued then Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy and Sen. John L. McClellan, D-Arkansas, for lumping him with other witnesses, claiming it damaged his reputation.

Mr. Bufalino retired from private practice in 1982 to dote on his grandchildren. To them, he was "poppa."

He graduated from St. John College and earned his law degree from Dickinson College of Law in 1942. He joined the army and eventually was assigned to the Romulus Army Air Field Base, where he became its trial judge advocate.

In 1945, he was married by the radio priest, Fr. Coughlin, to Marie

Antoinette Meli of Detroit in the Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak.

Surviving besides his son and wife are four daughters, Louise Blake, Grace Ritter, Toni DeClaire and Fran Arent; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A ROSARY will be recited at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in A. H. Peters Funeral Home, 20706 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

A funeral mass will be said at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Shores, with entombment in Holy Sepulchre Mausoleum, Southfield.

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Shanties MSU wants park cleared for safety

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tion from the activists of 20 years ago. They scorned any concerns about the shanties' crude looks and painted slogans.

"We're not living in an ideal world," said Stacey Barringer, a member of MSU's chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, which built a shanty to publicize homelessness. "Some of these issues are ugly."

MSU President John DiBiaggio, in a prepared statement last week, echoed her views precisely.

"I can understand those whose sense of esthetics is bothered by shanties on one of the most beautiful campuses in the country," DiBiaggio said. "But I can't help but find it commendable that these symbols, by their very 'out-of-place' nature, call us to ponder how out of place are hunger, racism, religious intolerance and other blights on the world's landscape."

The shanties have become a common form of student protest on a number of campuses nationwide, including the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where the structures

have existed on the main quadrangle for several years. U-M officials have tolerated the structures, but in recent months, they have discussed having them taken down or moved.

DiBiaggio was careful to refer to the MSU structures as "temporary."

The students say MSU should live up to DiBiaggio's words by changing the rules against temporary structures. Denbow said exemptions might be granted in the future, but he predicted no change in the basic ordinance.

The first shanty was built in mid-April by the Committee for Education on Latin America. One by one, more groups followed: the Democratic Socialists, HURT, an anti-race group, the General Union of Palestinian Students and the Student Coalition for Israel.

Friday, the Tropical Rain Forest Action Committee and Coalition for the Awareness of Rain Forest Ecosystems built the latest structure.

Only a few yards of lawn separate the pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian shanties, but leaders of both groups said they respect the other's right to free expression.

Organizers say the shanties are fulfilling their purpose — drawing lots of questions and comments from passing students.

"This is a university," said Jeanine Chiles of the Democratic Socialists. "It's supposed to be for education. Why shouldn't the students be able to educate (one another)?"

nondisclosure agreements," the motion said.

Robert Kearns stands to make a handsome fortune from an improved intermittent windshield wiper he invented in the mid-1960s, about 12 years after he married Phyllis Kearns, who is now an administrator with the National Institute of Health.

A federal jury in Detroit concluded Jan. 29 that Ford Motor Co. violated Kearns' patent by manufacturing an electrically powered intermittent windshield wiper.

In the second phase of the trial, Kearns' lawyer suggested the jury make Ford pay up to \$325 million in damages. Ford said \$1.5 million was much more reasonable.

After a week of deliberation, U.S. District Judge Avern L. Cohn declared a mistrial after the jury failed to reach a unanimous ruling. The jury forewoman said seven of the eight jurors concluded that about \$3 million was a fair payout. One held out for a much higher amount.

Kearns has similar patent cases pending against several auto firms including General Motors, Chrysler, Toyota, Mercedes Benz, Honda and Nissan.

He said he resents having his integrity challenged — particularly by his ex-wife.

"She left home September 1980, and I was left with six children, and I'm pleased to report to you that five are through college and a sixth is in college at present," Kearns said. "I've had three living at home with me now, and I have conducted myself in a very honorable way."

Wipers

Exwife seeks part
of proceeds from
suit against Ford

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But the papers filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit make it clear she's concerned her ex-husband, 62, might find a way to shortchange her.

"This petition is designed to protect her 10 percent," said her Detroit lawyer, Brian J. McKeen.

Her ex-husband, a former Wayne State University professor, thinks the legal action is nothing short of harassment.

"I've done nothing outside of the agreement, therefore I have no knowledge or need for such a paper," he said. "I simply intend to give 10 percent of what I receive. That's what the agreement is, and that's what I intend to do."

Phyllis Kearns' motion asks that she be named in all her ex-husband's lawsuits in case any judge forbids the parties from disclosing out-of-court settlements.

That way, as a named party, there would be no way for her ex-husband to hide any financial figures, the motion states.

"That by allowing Phyllis J. Kearns to intervene in this action as a silent plaintiff, this court would... allow Robert W. Kearns to make a full and complete accounting to his ex-wife without concern for possible allegations of violation of

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