

Independence mourning former police chief death

INDEPENDENCE TWP. — Municipal officials and long-time residents are mourning the death Nov. 20 of Michael Holowath, township committeeman and

long-time police chief.

Mr. Holowath, 70, died at Dover General Hospital and Medical Center after a long illness. He lived at 81 Ketcham Road here.

He retired in 1980 after 34 years as police chief of the part-time force. He had started his police career as a \$1-a-year assistant constable.

In the late 1930s, constables served legal papers and collected poll taxes and personal property taxes, two levys that have since been eliminated. Mr. Holowath credited his knowledge of both the Polish and Ukrainian languages with his getting the job because many of the older people in the township did not speak any English.

Mr. Holowath also farmed acreage here that had belonged to his parents.

He was Born Oct. 18, 1914, in Great Meadows and was a son of Joseph and Frances (Szawaluk) Holowath.

He was a member of the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Great Meadows, and a charter member and former president of the Independence Township Fire Department.

A number of municipal officials

eulogized their former colleague. One of them was Mayor Ralph Flanders, who served with Mr. Holowath since the committeeman's election in 1981. Mr. Holowath did not seek re-election this year because of ill health.

"I'm going to miss the old codger. He was an asset to the township. I enjoyed working with him. Although we often disagreed, there were no animosities," Flanders said.

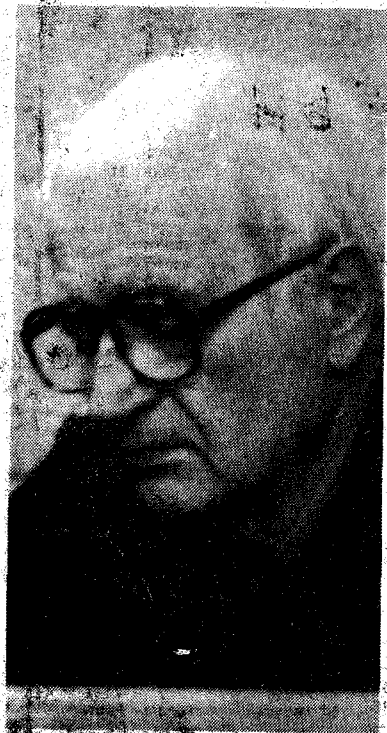
Former Mayor Sophia Eagles noted Mr. Holowath was police chief while she was police commissioner. "I found him very fair, very cooperative," she said. "He was always available, there was never a time he didn't cooperate with the community."

Noting she had known Mr. Holowath since childhood, Eagles said she has "very nice memories" of him. She recalls he used to drive her sister home from work when they were very young.

"I never heard anything bad about Mike," she said.

Another old friend and colleague in the Democratic party is Josephine Kowalick. She said she remembers Mr. Holowath as

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MICHAEL HOLOWATH

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OBITUARY
Michael Holowath
Date of Death
November 20, 1984