

Willard Barnes; ambulance exec

Willard Smith Barnes, 53, of 6626 Woodchuck Hill Road, died yesterday in Crouse-Irving Memorial Hospital. He was president of Eastern Ambulance Service Inc. He was a past president and treasurer of the New York State Ambulance Owners and Operators Association and a member of the Advisory Committee for Onondaga County Emergency Medical Services. He also took an active part in the Heart Association.

Mr. Barnes was a Syracuse native. He was the great-grandson of Silas F. Smith and grandson of Frank L. Barnes, trust officer of Syracuse Trust Co., which is now Marine Midland Bank. Silas Smith founded the Syracuse Journal which later merged to become the Syracuse Herald-Journal.

Mr. Barnes was formerly distributor of ambulance and funeral sales in New York State for a firm founded by his father, the late Robert A. Barnes. He went in business with his father in 1947 after a flying career.

At the age of 16, Mr. Barnes reportedly became youngest pilot to obtain a license in Onondaga County. He was a captain for Capitol Airlines which later became United Airlines and in 1946 received his airline transport rating. He flew commercially from 1943 to 1947.

Mr. Barnes was a member of the Quiet Birdmen for 20 years, Onondaga Golf and Country Club, Ina Island Tennis and Racquet Club in the Thousand Islands.

Mr. Barnes is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alice W. Barnes; his mother, Mrs. Theodore Smith Barnes of Syracuse; a son, Robert A. of Syracuse; a daughter, Mrs. Martin A. Yenawine of Elmira; two grandchildren; an aunt, Mrs. H.G. Barnes of Syracuse and two uncles, Charles S. Burrows and E. Austin Barnes of Syracuse.

Memorial services will be tomorrow at 11 a.m. at DeWitt Community Church, the Rev. Alexander Carmichel officiating.

There are no calling hours.

Contributions may be made to the Heart Association of Upstate New York or to Crouse-Irving Memorial Hospital fund.

Arrangements are by Fairchild and Meech DeWitt Chapel.