

Andrew Bender

April 15, 2010

Andrew Bender, 97, of Frackville, died Thursday evening at Schuylkill Medical Center-East Norwegian Street.

Born in Cumbola, July 29, 1912, he was the son of Samuel and Theresa Hanna Potts Bender.

He was a member of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Frackville.

He was the owner for 61 years of Bender's Cigar Store and Bus Agency in Frackville. He was the second commissioned agent hired for the Original Capitol Bus Co. He was a ticket agent for the Edwards Lakes-to-Sea Bus Co. for 51 years and the ticket agent for Capitol Bus Co. for 49 years.

In the '40s and '50s, Andrew was the founder of the Safety Patrol Boys Bus Trips to the Philadelphia Phillies baseball games. Also, Andrew put his heart and soul into Santa's visit to children in Frackville area schools and the heart clinic at the former Ashland State Hospital in Fountain Springs.

Andrew was one of the founding fathers of the Frackville Lions 4th of July Festival and a volunteer for taking people to the eye doctor when they needed glasses.

He was a former member of the Frackville Lions Club, where he served as treasurer for several years, a life member of Goodwill Hose Company No. 1, a life member of Frackville BPO Elks 1533 and the Frackville Senior Citizens.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Helen C.

O'Donnell Bender, in 1997; a grandson, Vincent A. Puritano, in 2008; four brothers, Andrew, Michael, John and Nicholas Potts; three sisters, Mary Shawky, Anna Krolick and Eva Francis. He was the last member of his family.

Surviving are two daughters, Margaret Ann Bender Puritano, wife of the Hon. Vincent Puritano, Annandale, Va., Diane H. Bender, Arlington, Va., a son, Samuel A. Bender, at home and his caregiver. A grandson, Charlie A. Puritano and his wife, Jeanette, Fairfax Station, Va.; three great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Frackville, with the Rev. Robert J. Potts and the Rev. Michael Beers concelebrating. Relatives and friends are invited to call from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday at Albert L. Gricoski Funeral Home, Frackville.

Interment will be in St. Joseph's Parish Cemetery, Frackville. In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Joseph's Memorial Fund, 14 N. Nice St., Frackville, PA 17931.

Samuel A. Bender

January 7, 2012

Samuel A. Bender, 70, a lifelong resident of Frackville, died unexpectedly Saturday evening at his residence.

Born in Frackville, Dec. 29, 1941, he was a son of the late Andrew and Helen C. O'Donnell Bender.

He was a 1959 graduate of the former Immaculate Heart High School, Fountain Springs, and attended Mc-Cann School of Business, Mahanoy City.

Sam was an active member and sexton of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Frackville, and a member and past Grand Knight of the Rev. James A. Hogan Knights of Columbus Council 2580, Frackville. He was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and ran many bus trips to the local and New Jersey casinos.

He worked with his father for more than 50 years at the former Bender's Cigar Store and Bus Agency. He also worked as a ticket agent for Capital Trailways Bus Co., Pottsville, and previously worked as a clerk at the former Ashland State General Hospital.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a nephew, Vincent A. Puritano, in 2008.

Sam is survived by two sisters, Margaret Ann Puritano and her husband, the Hon. Vincent Puritano, Annandale, Va., and Diane H. Bender, Arlington, Va.; a nephew, Charlie A. Puritano and his wife, Jeanette, Fairfax Station, Va.; grandnephews, Nick and Chris Puritano; a grandniece, Sofia Puritano.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday in St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Frackville, with the Rev. Robert T. Finlan as the celebrant. Relative and friends are invited to a visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Albert L. Gricoski Funeral Home, Frackville.

Interment will be in St. Joseph Parish Cemetery, Englewood, Frackville. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Samuel's name to the St. Joseph Church Memorial Fund, 14 N. Nice St., Frackville, PA 17931.