

Rev. John A. Harrer, custodian of library archives, editor; at 91

CAMBRIDGE - Rev. John A. Harrer, 91, of Cambridge, custodian of the archives of the Congregationalist Library on Beacon Street in Boston and a minister for 66 years, died of heart failure yesterday in Mount Auburn Hospital.

Rev. Harrer was born in Lakewood, N.J., and began his ministry in New York after his studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, City College of New York and Princeton.

In his early career, he served churches at Homer, N.Y., Brooklyn, N.Y., and Orient, N.Y. While in the New York area in the late 1930s and early 1940s, he was secretary of the Federation of Churches.

After coming to Boston in 1943, he became manager of Pil-

grim Press on Beacon Street, publishers of religious and educational material, and was a guest preacher in area churches, among them the Congregational Church in Newton's Waban section and the First Church Congregational in Cambridge, where he was a member. He also preached at one time in England.

In 1951, Rev. Harrer took over as librarian of the Congregationalist Library, remaining in that post until 1963. It was at that time that he became custodian of the archives and editor of the library bulletin. He became recognized for his work in the restoration and protection of rare books and had a wide correspondence with publishers.

During this period, he wrote a biography, "Reverend Abiel Abbot" (1978), documenting the life of the Congregationalist founder of the first free library in the United States at Peterboro, N.H. He also wrote and edited numerous other church-related papers.

Rev. Harrer was honored on May 11, 1984, his 90th birthday, by the American Congregationalist Association for his years of work in the ministry.

He was a member of the Winthrop Club in Boston.

His first wife of 55 years, the former Dorothy Wells, died in 1977. He married his present wife, Corrine (Nordquest), last year.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, John Harrer of Westport; three daughters, Jane Ritchie of Newton's Auburndale section, Ann Damon of Gardner and Beth Hannah of New London, Conn.; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held in the Short Williams and Diamond Funeral Home, 52 Trapelo Road, Belmont, at 10 a.m. Friday. Burial will be private.

A memorial service will be held in the First Church Congregational, Cambridge, at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15.

- WILLIAM P. COUGHLIN

Joseph Wright, 21

Student at Tufts University

COHASSET - A funeral Mass was said yesterday in St. Anthony's Church here for Joseph Norman Wright, 21, of Cohasset, a student at Tufts University.

Mr. Wright, who formerly lived in Weymouth, died of cancer Sunday in the South Shore Hospital after a brief illness.

A graduate of Weymouth North High School in 1982, he was planning on entering his junior year at Tufts this semester.

He had studied during the past year at Tübingen University in Germany under a Tufts students abroad program. Mr. Wright had been majoring in international relations and studying German as a minor.

He leaves his parents, Norman R. and Mary-Jane (Mahoney) of Cohasset; four sisters, Martha Lee of Atlanta, Ga., Jo Ann Wright Scott of Randolph, and Sally and Penelope Wright, both of Cohasset; and his grandparents, Robert and Velma Wright of Weymouth.

He was buried in Woodside Cemetery here.

Mayor Dink

September 9, 1985-

whereas:

This City Council was deeply saddened upon learning of the death of the Reverend John A. Harver, late custodian of the archives of the Congregationalist Library on Beacon Street Boston and a minister for ^{66 years,} ~~the past~~ and

whereas:

Reverend Harver began his ministry in New York upon completing his studies at Union Theological Seminary, City College of New York and at Princeton University, and

whereas:

Reverend Harver came to Boston in 1943 and became manager of the Pilgrim Press, a publishing house for religious and educational material as well as serving as a guest preacher in area churches, among them ~~the~~ being the Congregational Church in Newton and the First Church Congregational in Cambridge, ^{where he was also a member} and
 whereas:

Reverend Harver assumed the duties of Chaplain ^{of the Congregationalist Library} in 1951 remaining in that position until 1963 at which time he became

introduction of the archives and editor
 of the library bulletin and while
 holding these positions he became
 nationally ⁽¹⁾ recognized in the area of
~~the~~ restoration and protection of rare
 books

Now therefore be it

Resolved:

That this City Council go on
 record extending its deepest sympathy
 to Mrs. Cornie Hawser and to the entire
 Hawser family at this time of such
 personal loss, and be it further

(C)

Resolved:

That the City Clerk be and
he is requested to forward a suitably
expressed copy of this resolution to
Mrs. Howe on behalf of the entire
City Council.



City of Cambridge

21.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 9, 1985

MAYOR DUEHAY

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened upon learning of the death of the Reverend John A. Harrer, late custodian of the archives of the Congregationalist Library on Beacon Street, Boston and a minister for sixty-six years; and
- WHEREAS: Reverend Harrer began his ministry in New York upon completing his studies at Union Theological Seminary, City College of New York and at Pemberton University; and
- WHEREAS: Reverend Harrer came to Boston in 1943 and became manager of the Pilgrim Press, a publishing house for religious and educational material as well as serving as a guest preacher in area churches, among them being the Congregational Church in Newton and the First Church Congregational in Cambridge where he was also a member; and
- WHEREAS: Reverend Harrer assumed the duties of Librarian of the Congregationalist Library in 1951 remaining in that position until 1963 at which time he became custodian of archives and editor of the library bulletin and while holding these positions he became nationally recognized in the area of restoration and protection of rare books; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Corrine Harrer and to the entire Harrer Family at this time of such personal loss; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Mrs. Harrer on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 9, 1985.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

Order # 21

S- 605

Mayor Duehay resolutions on the death of
Reverend John A. Harrer.

In City Council,

September 9, 1985

9/9/85

~~M.D.~~
~~A~~ Order Adopted
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