

Scheltema, Bedford school chief, banker, dies



CHARLES
SCHELTEMA

TEMPERANCE — Charles A. Scheltema, 79, who served as superintendent of Bedford Public Schools for 15 years in the 1950s and '60s and went on to work for Monroe Bank & Trust, died Tuesday at Holly Glen Manor in Toledo of natural causes.

Friends may call from 2 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday at the Farnham Funeral Home in Temperance. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Feb. 21 at First Unitarian Church of Toledo.

George Hagen, who was superintendent of Bedford Public

Schools for 16 years shortly after Mr. Scheltema left, said he respected and admired his predecessor.

"I can't say enough good things about him," Mr. Hagen said this morning. "He was a super educator. He was very student oriented and very conscientious."

Mr. Hagen said he also will remember Mr. Scheltema for his speaking skills. "He was an orator of the old school," he said. "He could really give a talk."

Born May 21, 1913, in Grand Rapids, Mr. Scheltema was the son of Arthur and Helena (Newhouse) Scheltema. He married Mary Jane

Lukins on June 17, 1938, in Martin, Mich.

Mr. Scheltema obtained a bachelor of science degree in 1939 from Western Michigan College of Education in Kalamazoo and a master's degree in school administration at the University of Michigan in 1944.

Mr. Scheltema was superintendent of Ovid Schools before being hired as superintendent of the Bedford Rural Agricultural School District, later the Bedford Public Schools, in 1952. He held that post until 1967, when he began a nine-year career with Monroe Bank & Trust during which he was an assistant vice president and manager of the Temperance branch. He retired from the bank in 1976.

In 1972, Mr. Scheltema was named president of the Child and Family Services Agency of Monroe. He was selected as a member of the National Retired Teachers Association's pre-retirement planning advisory committee in 1980.

He was a life member of the National Education Association, as well as the Michigan Association of School Administrators. He also was a member of First Unitarian Church of Toledo, Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel, Bedford Education Association, Friday Discussion Club, Phi Delta Kappa and the Free and Accepted Masons of Ovid.

Surviving are his wife of Temperance; one son, Charles A. Scheltema II of Ann Arbor; one sister, Margaret Chipman of Grand Rapids, and one grandson.

Donations may be made to First Unitarian Church of Toledo.