**Nick Vidnovic: Newspaper Obituary and Death Notice**

**Observer-Reporter (Washington, PA) - Saturday, May 5, 2007**

**Deceased Name: Nick Vidnovic**

Army vet and millwright owned McKeesport salon

Nick Vidnovic, 92, of McMurray, died Wednesday, May 2, 2007, in his home.

He was born March 13, 1915, in Ponikve, Yugoslavia, the fourth son of Bozo and Smilyna. His Serbian parents, who had immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s, returned to Yugoslavia with his three older brothers, Sam, Burke and Milan, in 1914.

When he was 5 years old, the family was reunited in McKeesport. After several years, the family purchased a home in Port Vue big enough to accommodate the growing family. Four more sons, Peter, Steve, Robert and Ted, were born, although Peter died as an infant.

Mr. Vidnovic graduated from McKeesport High School in 1933. Although he played football in 1932 and 1933, his true forte was starring for the McKeesport High School baseball team.

After high school, he was a hard-hitting first baseman for Daily News League and Copperweld teams. He played professional baseball with Little Pirates until a broken instep ended his career in 1939.

He worked for Copperweld in Glassport and as a millwright for McKeesport Tin Plate. For several years, while his father was ill and his brothers were in college, Nick was the only support for his family. The Vidnovic family sent five sons to World War II and lost one, Steve, who died at the Battle of the Bulge.

At 28, Mr. Vidnovic was drafted into the Army in 1943. After finishing basic training in June 1944, he was shipped to England and then to France in August 1944 with the 2nd Infantry Division. He was a telephone man, stringing heavy spools of telephone cable to the front. His company established a winter camp in Ardennes Forest near the Siegfried Line.

He survived the Battle of the Bulge and eventually marched across Europe to Czechoslovakia. His unit returned to Texas in December 1945.

After his discharge in 1946, he attended beauty school in Pittsburgh. He owned Nicholas Beauty Salon in McKeesport from 1947 until his retirement in 1989.

In 1950, Mr. Vidnovic married his longtime sweetheart, Laura Belle Hess, in their new home in Versailles. She was a physical education and health teacher at Clairton High School for 40 years. They had one child, Nick II, in 1955. They were married for 42 years until Laura's death in 1992.

Over the years, Mr. Vidnovic remained an excellent athlete. He shot his age in golf both in 1995 (80) and 2001 (86).

In 2004, he moved from Versailles to McMurray to be closer to his son, Nick and daughter-in-law Janet.

He greatly enjoyed his new neighbors at Cranmoor.

He was proud of his grandson, Nick III, a senior at Harvard University, and his granddaughter, Loren, a freshman at Vanderbilt University.

Surviving, in addition to his son and family, are two brothers, Sam and Robert, and many nieces and nephews.

Friends are welcome from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday in Beinhauers Funeral Home, 2828 Washington Road, Peters Township (724-941-3211). A funeral liturgy will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday in St. Sava Church, McKeesport. Interment will be in Versailles Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts to Friends of Peters Township Library, 616 East McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317. Please add or view tributes at www.beinhauer.com.

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