

Chicago Tribune

Breaking News, Since 1847

Warren Ward, 93, Head Of Encyclopedia Firm

March 27, 1987 | By Kenan Heise.

Warren H. Ward, 93, chairman of Standard Educational Corp., was associated for 77 years with the firm that publishes the New Standard encyclopedia and the Child Horizon books.

He also was president and chairman of the National Bank of North Evanston in the 1960s.

Private services were held for Mr. Ward, who had lived in Evanston since 1922. He died March 15 in Naples (Fla.) Community Hospital.

“Among my many pieces of good fortune,” he wrote in a summary of his life, “I now believe one of the greatest was being born poor.”

A native of Saginaw, Mich., he hired himself out to work from farm to farm in the early mornings and after school, so he could walk to high school and continue his education. He later attended Northwestern University and became a country schoolteacher.

Mr. Ward started selling the New Standard encyclopedia door-to-door on the side and then began doing it full time. He became a vice president of the firm in 1920. He purchased it and became president in 1930. Since 1966, he had been chairman of the board.

Under his direction, the firm changed from a door-to-door sales company to a publisher and wholesale distributor.

Mr. Ward was president of the National Bank of North Evanston from 1961 to 1963 and chairman from 1963 to 1968.

He was a director of the American Textbook Publishers Institute.

He was blind for the last 20 years but continued to take the train to work in the Loop.

Survivors include a son, Warren Jr.; 2 daughters, Louise Ewing and Jean Ward Hall; 9 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Margaret Hahn.