

MERCIER, Paul

## Memorial mass for businessman

Keel  
Dec 12/89

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A memorial mass for prominent city businessman Paul Mercier will be held at 7 p.m. today in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on Victoria Avenue.

Mr. Mercier, long-time city jeweller, and founder of PM Industries (custom signs), died Sunday at age 78.

Described by one former associate, jeweller Jerry O'Connor, as "mechanically clever and inventive," Mercier came to Belleville in 1942 to fill in repair duties for city jeweller Ron Keel who had joined the armed services. Three years later, when Keel returned, Mr. Mercier went on his own and operated jewellery and watch repair stores at various locations in the downtown area.

In 1955 he retired from the jewellery store business and became founder of PM Industries. O'Connor says part of the reason that PM Industries became so successful was Mercier's patent on an invention which allowed name plates to be changed easily, as well as his creative design ability.

He sold the business about 14 years later and retired.

At one time, recalls O'Connor, Mercier made headlines in *The Intelligencer* by designing and doing most of the work on a replica of a King James crown.

Apart from business, Mr. Mercier was active for many years in the Knights of Columbus and the Alhambra Caravan. He also served for many years as a member of the Hastings and Prince Edward

Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

Members of the Knights of Columbus and the Alhambra are asked to gather in St. Joseph's Church at 6:40 this evening for the Rosary.

Besides his wife, the former Annette Ste. Marie, he is survived by one son, Robert Paul, and his wife, Lynn, of Oakville, grandsons Robert and Donald Mercier, and brothers and sisters Simone Mercier, Montreal; Andre, Belleville; Terese Gagnon, Belleoeil, P.Q., and Jean Jacques Mercier, Hudson, P.O.

The O'Brien-Steele-Pinkston and Grant Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. The family has asked for memorial donations to either Belleville General Hospital Memorial Fund, or the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation.