

Marie DeBartolo; developer's wife

Mrs. Marie Patricia DeBartolo, 71, of 110 Southwoods Ave., died of a respiratory ailment Sunday morning in Southside Medical Center, where she had been a patient several weeks.

Mrs. DeBartolo was the wife of multimillionaire Edward J. DeBartolo, the country's leading mall developer. She was known throughout the country as she accompanied her husband and was the hostess when the company officially opened new malls and other ventures.

Despite declining health in recent months, Mrs. DeBartolo had continued to attend many events with her husband. Her most recent major public appearance was at the annual Ohio Derby at Thistledown Racing Club, one of the company's holdings.

Mrs. DeBartolo was born March 17, 1916, in New York City, a daughter of Atty. Dominic A. and Ruth Guerrieri Montani. The family came to Youngstown when she was a child, and her father established a practice here and was a leader in the growth of the city's east end, contributing time and money for development of the Watt Street span and improvements to East Front Street and South Avenue. Her father also was a leader in the Italian community and was campaign manager for former Youngstown Mayor William B. Spagnola.

After attending elementary schools in Youngstown, Mrs. DeBartolo graduated from Cleveland's Villa Angela High School and Ursuline College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education.

Following graduation from college, Mrs. DeBartolo taught at the old Hillman Street School and later at Grant School. She and her husband were married Dec. 18, 1943, in Virginia, where he had been commissioned a lieutenant at Officer's Candidate School at Fort Belvoir. She returned to Youngstown and taught for a time until her husband returned from service overseas.

Throughout her life, Mrs. DeBartolo had a deep interest in the plight of sick and disadvantaged children. She gave quietly and generously of both her time and resources to organizations and others who shared that interest. Among these were the Millcreek Child Care Center, St. Vincent dePaul Society and St. Jude's Research Center in Memphis.

She also worked actively on numerous cancer and heart fund campaigns organized by the DeBartolo corporation, her husband, son, and daughter, including last year's successful Cancer Crusade dinner fund-raiser.

Mrs. DeBartolo was a collector and restorer of rare antique pieces, including many items of local historical interest. She had a keen per-



Mrs. Marie P. DeBartolo

ception of old pieces and delighted in their appearance after restoration. A fine artist, she painted many portraits and still lifes in both oils and watercolors.

She enjoyed traveling and crossed the country many times with her husband, attending mall openings, occasions honoring her husband, and many sporting events involving teams owned by the company or by family members.

Mrs. DeBartolo was a member of St. Charles Church and was a charter member of the Catholic Collegiate Association here. She was a major benefactor of the Ursuline Sisters here and worked actively in the organization of the order's Century Club, set up in 1964 to reduce the debt on the Shields Road motherhouse. She had continued her work with the Century Club in its more recent expansion to provide needed improvements and a fund for retired nuns.

Besides her husband, who is chairman and chief executive officer of the Edward J. DeBartolo Corp., Mrs. DeBartolo leaves a son, Edward J. DeBartolo Jr., the company's president and chief administrative officer; a daughter, Mrs. Marie Denise DeBartolo York, wife of Dr. John C. York, and executive vice president of personnel and public relations, both of Canfield; a sister, Mrs. Frank A. Mastriana of Boardman and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and seven grandchildren.

Services were this morning in the church. Arrangements were handled by the Fox Funeral Home.

The family requests material tributes take the form of contributions to the Marie P. DeBartolo Foundation, Box 3287, Youngstown, 44512.