

MEMORIAL TO JAMES ALBERT MAXWELLMAY 21, 1984

James Albert Maxwell, son of Alfred and Margaret Dunican Maxwell, was born in Cincinnati in 1912 and died in New York in 1984. In his early years he lived in a cold-water flat on Gest Street, later on Price Hill, graduated from Withrow High School in 1930 and attended night courses at U.C. without trying for a degree.

Always a free-lance writer along with various jobs as editor, Jim's national recognition began during World War II in which he served in Intelligence in North Africa, the background for a series of stories which appeared in the New Yorker, and later in a book entitled, "I Never Saw an Arab Like Him." During his career he wrote stories for the Saturday Evening Post, Holiday and other magazines. He received the O. Henry Award for his Colliers story "Fighter." He was admired by E. B. White, editor of the New Yorker for which he wrote many pieces including a series of stories about Remus, the famous bootlegger, entitled, "The Man Who Owned a Gold Piano." Jim lived near Remus on Price Hill. One day when Jim and two other boys were looking through the iron fence around Remus' big house, Remus took them in and showed them his library and gold-plated piano.

After the war, Jim edited the house organ of the Union Central Life Insurance Company before he moved to New York to become book editor for Time-Life and then book editor for the Reader's Digest. His first wife was Genevieve Ludwig who died in 1974. His second wife was Lynne Rogers whom he married a month before his death.

Elected to the Club in 1950, Jim was an associate member from 1967 until his death. In seventeen years he wrote 36 papers for the Club, a tribute to his popularity with budget editors. ~~Exhibits to his papers involved his early life in the~~

west end and his grandfather Dunican, owner of the Shamrock Saloon, some of them later published in the New Yorker and other magazines. A memorable (Club) paper was on "Cyrus Eaton, the Radical Tycoon." He cherished the Club even in absentia.

Jim was a pro, a writer's writer. His early poverty, his creative imagination and his idealism gave him a Dickens outlook. Ideologically and politically he was a liberal and unpredictable. He went his own pipe-smoking, independent, quiet way. Jim was a charming, concerned and unself-centered friend to a wide range of people. Gene Mihaly put it in a couplet:

He never quite leaves us our
friend who has past
A thousand sweet memories are
holding him fast.

Submitted by the Committee:

Sam Pogue, who furnished
the facts of Jim's life

Gene Mihaly, who commented
on him as a person

Eslie Asbury, chairman
