

From the Friday, March 5, 1999 edition of the Kankakee Journal:

Visitation for Ralph J. "Blackie" Cowan, 76, of Bradley, will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, with a wake service at 4 p.m. at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Joseph Church, Bradley, where he was a member. Burial with military rites by the Aroma Park American Legion F-Troop will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Kankakee. Memorials may be made for Masses or to the donor's choice. Mr. Cowan died Wednesday (March 3, 1999) at Provena St. Mary's Hospital, following a short illness. Mr. Cowan retired in 1982 after 35 years at A.O. Smith Corporation, where he was president of its Union. He was born March 9, 1922 in Rockaway Beach, N.Y., the son of Ralph F. and Rose P. Farid Cowan. Surviving are his wife, the former Dorene Tobenski, whom he married June 30, 1946 in Irwin; two daughters and sons-in-law, Rose Ellen and Marvin "Gene" LaVallie of Kankakee and Deborah and William Bennett of Bradley; three sisters, Gertrude Connelly of New Paltz, N.Y., Isabel Maziejko of Boston, Mass. and Gloria Miles of Broad Channel, N.Y.; one brother Walter P. "Lucky" Cowan of Kankakee; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one step-grandson; two step-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. A veteran, serving in the Army Air Corps, he had been a member of the Kankakee and Bradley American Legions. He was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose. Mr. Cowan was a volunteer for the Community Chest. He enjoyed fishing, golfing and the craft of stained glass. From the Social Security Death Index: RALPH J COWAN 09 Mar 1922 03 Mar 1999 (V) 60915 (Bradley, Kankakee, IL) (none specified) 095-12-7228 New York