Mr. Edward J. Burke, son of James V. and Regina Patterson Burke was born in Ashland. He attended the schools there and graduated from the Eckels College of Embalming and Mortuary Science in 1933. Two years later he obtained his license for funeral directing and was affiliated with his father who was an undertaker and cabinet maker in Ashland. In those days a mortician had to construct his own coffins.

He moved to Frackville in 1937 and built his residence and funeral home at 217 South Lehigh Avenue and conducted this business until he retired on February 2, 1967, after 52 years as a funeral director. When their home was first built he was very proud of his garden which boasted thirty-nine different kinds of evergreens growing there.

He became interested in railroading when an uncle, Mr. Patterson was affiliated with the Reading Company. He was an avid railroad buff and when the Reading Railroad Company decided to discontinue train passenger service between Reading, Pottsville and Shamokin he worked diligently to acquire 500 signatures of protest against this proposed change. This petition was presented at a meeting with the Public Utility Commission and helped in the decision of the Reading Railroad to continue the passenger service which served the area for 118 years.

Mr. Burke was a member of St. Joseph's Church, the Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus Council 2580, Rotary Club, a member of Berks, Lebanon and Schuylkill Funeral Directors Association, the State Association of Funeral Directors and the National Funeral Directors Association. He had been made an honorary member of the National Railway Historical Society, Lehigh Valley Chapter because of his interest in railroads.

He was married to the former Beatrice Kane and passed away April 14, 1967.

Mrs. Edward Burke was born in Ashland and attended the schools there. She attended West Chester College and was awarded her masters degree in mathematics at New York University and taught for thirty-five years. She resides at 217 South Lehigh Avenue.