

January 28, 1955
J.D. O'Brien Letter

INLAND MANUFACTURING DIVISION

GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

DAYTON, OHIO



OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

January 28, 1955

Miss Virginia Mauch
543 Santa Cruz Ave.
Dayton 10, Ohio

Dear Miss Mauch:

You and I have lost a great friend in Richard Westbrook's sudden death.

Richard was proud of you and all of the children in the Inland Children's Chorus.

Richard's contribution during his lifetime to the training of children and the teaching of music was a wonderful thing for all the children and for the community as a whole. Richard Westbrook's influence will be felt for a great many years in our community.

Out of respect to the memory of Richard Westbrook, no plans will be made now for carrying on the work which he originated and created.

You will be notified in September as to the future of the Inland Children's Chorus. In the meantime, offer your sympathy to Richard's family and a prayer for the conductor we all loved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J.D. O'Brien".
General Manager

Courtesy of
Virginia (Mauch) Wade



RICHARD B. WESTBROCK

R. Westbrook Dies; Founded Inland Chorus

Richard B. Westbrook, 49, of 114 Five Oaks av., founder and director of the Inland Chorus, died at 1:30 a. m. Thursday in Good Samaritan hospital after an illness of two weeks.

Mr. Westbrook founded the Inland Chorus, a group of children of employes of the Inland Manufacturing division, General Motors Corp., in 1936. Before that, in 1933, he had organized and directed the Singing Boys, out of which grew the chorus.

In addition to those activities, Mr. Westbrook gave instructions in music, with emphasis on voice.

The Inland Chorus was widely known and for many years had appeared with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra in an annual Christmas program. Likewise, the group had presented programs in other cities, where it was widely acclaimed.

* * *
MR. WESTBROCK was born in Dayton. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ben Westbrook. He was graduated from St. Mary school and then studied music and voice under Marcus Kellerman in Detroit.

He also had been the organist and choirmaster at St. James church, Sacred Heart church, Holy Angels church and at the time of his death was organist at Our Lady of the Rosary church.

Mr. Westbrook is survived by his wife, Dorothy M.; three daughters, Mary Lou, Barbara Ann and Judith; two sons, Thomas R. and Robert C.; a sister, Mrs. Carl B. Leinisch, and four brothers, Raymond, Norbert, William and Charles.

Services To Be Held Monday For Richard Westbrook, 49

Services for Richard B. Westbrook, 49, founder and director of the Inland chorus, will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at the Westbrook funeral home, 1712 Wayne avenue.

Solemn requiem high mass will be sung at 10:30 a.m. at Corpus Christi church by Msgr. Harry J. Ansbury, with burial in Calvary cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home Sunday afternoon and evening.

Mr. Westbrook, who resided at 114 Five Oaks avenue, died at 1:30 a.m. yesterday in Good Samaritan hospital after a two-week illness.

In 1936 he founded Inland chorus—children of employes at Inland Manufacturing division, General Motors corporation. The chorus was well known and presented an annual Christmas program with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra for a number of years.

Inland chorus, which had grown out of the Singing Boys, an earlier group organized and directed by Mr. Westbrook, also appeared in other cities.

A native Daytonian, Mr. Westbrook graduated from St. Mary school and studied music and voice under Marcus Kellerman in Detroit. He had been organist and choirmaster at St. James church, Sacred Heart church, Holy Angels church and at the time of his death was organist at Our Lady of Rosary church.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Westbrook.

Surviving are his wife, Dorothy M.; three daughters, Mary Lou, Barbara Ann and Judith; two sons, Thomas R. and Robert C.; a sister, Mrs. Carl B. Leinisch; and four brothers, Raymond, William, Norbert and Charles. All survivors live in Dayton.



RICHARD B. WESTBROCK

January 28, 1955
News-Journal
Mansfield, Ohio

CHORUS DIRECTOR DIES

DAYTON, O. (INS)—Richard B. Westbrook, 49, director of the Inland Children's Chorus, died unexpectedly in a Dayton hospital yesterday following what was considered a minor operation.

Source: Newspapers.com

January 28, 1955
The Daily Times
New Philadelphia, Ohio

Minor Operation Fatal To Organist

DAYTON, O. (INS)—Richard B. Westbrook, 49, director of the Inland Children's Chorus, died unexpectedly in a Dayton hospital today following what was considered a minor operation.

The noted Dayton organist and choir master entered the hospital two weeks ago.

Westbrook organized the Inland Chorus, which became nationally famed, in 1936. He also was organist at a number of Dayton Catholic churches.

Source: Newspapers.com

January 28, 1955
Dayton Journal Herald

Richard Westbrook

It is with a sense of loss that the community learns of the death of Richard Westbrook for he has been identified long with musical activities here and in particular with the Inland Children's chorus which brought joy and a sense of celebration to the local observance of Christmas.

Mr. Westbrook founded the Inland Children's chorus in 1936. And year after year this singing group, sponsored by the Inland Manufacturing division of General Motors, appeared in addition to other occasions on the Christmas program of the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra's subscription series. Several times this concert took place at the Masonic Temple. As a rule it was presented in Memorial hall.

Many will think affectionately of Richard Westbrook when they recall the members of his chorus standing on a tall and silver-gray tier, the girls in long, powder-blue gowns and the boys wearing long trousers and Eton jackets. To either side of the platform, silvered Christmas trees were pointed with blue lights. The deportment of the children was that of professionals as they voiced familiar carols.

Mr. Westbrook served Sacred Heart, Holy Angels, St. James and Our Lady of the Rosary churches as organist, and their congregations, of course, will hold him in remembrance. But the city at large will recall him as director of the Inland Children's chorus, a spectacle which brought delight to a festive season.

Courtesy of Mary Lou (Westbrook) Lubinski

January 28, 1955
The Dayton Daily News

Richard Westbrook

The gift of music that Richard Westbrook as director of the Inland Children's chorus has made to the city of Dayton can never be obliterated by death.

A man of patience and understanding, he took great pleasure in teaching and working with the high spirited youngsters who made up the industry-sponsored choral organization.

Under his meticulous leadership, many of Dayton's leaders of today grew to appreciate music and the long hours of labor which go into

a performance. And around them spreads an aura of vicarious understanding and enjoyment that has enriched the culture-content of the community.

What more lasting contribution to a city can a devoted and sensitive man make?

February 25, 1955
The Dayton Daily News

ENDURING CHORDS

To the Editor of The News:

Can the members of the Westbrook Singing Boys or the Inland Chorus forget their past leader, Richard Westbrook? No, never. Nor will the parents of these boys and girls forget him, though in person he is no longer with us.

He had the ability to teach youth that "music is a language of tones," a means of communication. He knew how to produce that perfect pitch from their vocal boxes, the distinguishing factor of tone versus noise.

And all this was accomplished through a willing obedience. In Mr. Westbrook boys and girls found an ideal . . . Many of these boys and girls long dismissed from the chorus are singing when and wherever the opportunity presents itself. With a song in their hearts they are a happy people and "happy people are the greatest benefactors to society" . . .

I feel that many parents join us in hoping that Richard Westbrook will have found that "Lost Chord" in Heaven.

Dayton. MRS. CON J. FECHER.

Courtesy of Tom Meyer

January 28, 1955
The Dayton Daily News



RICHARD B. WESTBROCK

Westbrock Rites Will Be Monday

Services for Richard B. Westbrock, 49, of 114 Five Oaks av., will be conducted at 10 a. m. Monday at the Westbrock funeral home, 1712 Wayne av. Solemn requiem high mass will be sung at 10:30 a. m. at Corpus Christi church by Msgr. Harry J. Ansbury. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home Sunday afternoon and evening.

Mr. Westbrock died Thursday in Good Samaritan hospital.

January 28, 1955
The Dayton Daily News

J-29 FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1955

DEATHS AND FUNERALS

Richard B. Westbrock

Services for Richard B. Westbrock, 49, of 114 Five Oaks av., will be conducted at 10 a. m. Monday at the Westbrock funeral home, 1712 Wayne av. Solemn requiem high mass will be sung at 10:30 a. m. at Corpus Christi church by Msgr. Harry J. Ansbury. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home Sunday afternoon and evening.

Mr. Westbrock died Thursday in Good Samaritan hospital.

Council No. 500, Knights of Columbus, will conduct memorial

services at 8 p. m. Sunday in the funeral home.

Clifford H. Howard

Clifford Henry Howard, 58, of 523 S. Dixie dr., was dead on arrival at 4:45 p. m. Thursday at Miami Valley hospital. He was stricken unexpectedly at his home. A native of Morgan county, Ky., and a Dayton resident about 20 years. Mr. Howard was a retired

Source: Newspapers.com

Text of Article Above:

Services for Richard B. Westbrock, 49, of 114 Five Oaks av. Will be conducted at 10 a.m. Monday at the Westbrock funeral home, 1712 Wayne av. Solemn requiem high mass will be sung at 10:30 a.m. at Chopus Christi church by Msgr. Harry J. Ansbury. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home Sunday afternoon and evening.

Mr. Westbrock died Thursday in Good Samaritan hospital.

Council No. 500, Knights of Columbus, will conduct memorial services at 8 p.m Sunday in the funeral home.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart
make my heart like unto thine.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

RICHARD B. WESTBROCK

Born January 18, 1906
Died January 27, 1955
Services 10:30 A. M.
Corpus Christi Church
January 31, 1955

PRAYER

O gentlest Heart of Jesus ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in purgatory, have mercy on the soul of Thy departed servant. Be not severe in Thy judgement but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames and do Thou O merciful Saviour send Thy angels to conduct Thy departed servant to a place of refreshment, light and peace. Amen.

Indulgence 7 years, each time
Jesus, Mary, Joseph
Raccolta 256 N

105

PRINTED IN ITALY

Courtesy of Mary Lou (Westbrock) Lubinski

Courtesy of Mary Lou (Westbrock) Lubinski