

# CLOSING CHORD



## W. "Tiny" James

W. "Tiny" James passed away on May 31, having suffered a lengthy illness. He was 75.

His funeral was held on June 5 under the auspices of B.P.O.E. No. 1015.

He was a native of Alameda, California. Being well-known in the community, his talents were often called upon to help in local activities.

"Tiny" was a member of Alameda Lodge No. 1015 B.P.O.E., Oak Grove Lodge No. 215 F. & A.M., a life member of Musicians Union Local No. 6, and I.A.T.S.E. Local 162.

He was one of the founding members of ATOS, served as ATOS President for three terms and was declared an Honorary Member in 1966.

His recordings were very popular, including three discs made at the famous San Francisco Fox, one at the Fox Oakland and one at the Orpheum in San Francisco.

"Tiny" also managed the Home Organ Festival, an annual West Coast convention of electronic organ clubs, for several years.

He leaves his wife, Ida, and two children, Glen and Janice. Other family members include brothers Don and Robert and one sister, Barbara King.

(Note: a follow-up on "Tiny" James' career will appear in a forthcoming issue. Ed.)

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*It is music's lofty mission  
to shed light on the  
depths of the  
human heart.*

ROBERT SCHUMANN · 1810-56

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## William L. Fearnley

William L. Fearnley, one of West Virginia's best known and beloved musicians, died April 29 at the age of 84.

Mr. Fearnley's musical career spanned the years from 1920 until 1988, and encompassed early accompaniment of silent films on piano, theatre organ in Meriden, Connecticut, and several years with the Meyer Davis organization which entailed hotel and night club engagements. In 1954, Mr. Fearnley started a twenty-five year career as featured organist and pianist at The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Following his retirement from that position in 1979, he continued to play private and public engagements until shortly before his death, including an accompaniment of Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* at West Virginia's Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg. His interest in music and in the preservation of historic pianos and organs was a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to all musicians — especially the young and aspiring.

Mr. Fearnley is survived by his wife, Gladys Gaskill Fearnley, who was herself a pioneer in radio entertainment in Kansas City, Missouri where she sang on her own program over station WHB in 1927.

## Emma L. O'Brien

Emma Louise O'Brien, 81, an organist and former UCSB lecturer died in Santa Barbara, California, after a brief illness. She was organist emeritus at First Presbyterian Church where she provided musical service for 52 years. Mrs. O'Brien studied under Albert Hay Malotte and worked for West Coast Theatres. She played the organ at the Granada Theatre before movies and during intermissions. Emma and a partner helped produce records for children of nursery school age. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. William J. "Billie" Mitchell of Santa Barbara, and two nieces.

## Frederick H. Dise

Frederick H. Dise of Farmington, New York, a charter member of the Rochester Theatre Organ Society, died on March 23 at the age of 72.

He was the club's first publicity chairman and wrote the text for the RKO Palace pictorial book which helped raise funds for RTOS' purchase of the Palace Wurlitzer in 1965.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothea, three sons, one daughter, a brother and two grandsons. *Lloyd E. Klos*

## Robert Johnson

Robert Johnson, 64, of the San Francisco Bay Area passed away of a heart attack. He was originally trained as a pharmacologist and helped develop several important heart medicines when he worked for Smith, Kline & French in Philadelphia. He was also an accomplished chef and served in that capacity as well as relief theatre organist in the Orpheum Restaurant in Clearwater, Florida in the seventies. He subsequently moved to San Francisco where he became a real estate broker and continued to play the organ. He often substituted for David Kelsey at the New Bell Saloon. He was a fascinating and charming person and will be missed. *Robert Ridgeway*



## Roger Garrett

Roger Garrett, Columbus, Ohio, television, radio and theatre organist, died recently in Clarksburg, West Virginia, after a brief illness. He was 79.

Garrett, a Springfield, Ohio, native, was resident organist at the Loew's Ohio, now the Ohio Theatre, from 1933 to 1942. He left Columbus to join the Marines during WWII, playing with Bob Crosby's orchestra, but returned to Columbus to be staff organist at WBNS radio from 1946-48.

Garrett opened the University Theatre in 1947 as manager and organist. He later joined WBNS-TV, where he worked as organist and production assistant until 1955.

In 1958, Garrett moved to West Virginia to become general manager of WBOY television and radio stations in Clarksburg. He retired in 1977, but continued to make guest appearances at the Ohio Theatre. He left no immediate survivors.