

CLOSING CHORD

Fred Bayne

Frederick R. Bayne, 73, well-known Detroit area organist, died of pneumonia September 5, 1990, in Pennock Hospital, Hastings, Michigan. Fred, a long time member of the American Theatre Organ Society, was a charter member of the Wolverine Chapter, a member of the American Guild of Organists and one of the first members of the Detroit Theatre Organ Club (Society). Fred studied classical organ at Michigan State University, but his first love would be what we now call the "standards." When the Hammond Organ was first introduced Fred was one of the first students to go to Chicago to study at the Sherwood School of Music with Mildred Fitzpatrick, a renowned silent film organist.

The year was 1938; the place was Erie Cafe in Chicago. This was the beginning of Fred's life-long professional career as an organist, performing in restaurants, at roller skating rinks and on the radio with his own organ show. Fred often reminisced about his days as roller skating organist. "They treated me like a king. The skaters would meet me at the door and escort me



Fred Bayne

to the organ lift. When I was to take a break everyone wanted to skate with the organist."

Fred will be remembered by many of his friends for his thirty-three year stint as organist at the Farm House Restaurant in Hazel Park, Michigan, where he played the Hammond Organ (that the restaurant purchased new when he first started) up to the time of his death. Fred composed one song that he had published. When thinking of Fred, his family and friends will remember him as a warm, talented

and gentle person, as his song said, "OH LET ME DREAM, LET ME DREAM OF THE PAST." *Steve Schlesing*

John (Johnny) Winters

Johnny Winters, 81, organist at the Blue Network and ABC for more than 20 years, died August 24 in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, after a long illness.

Winters began his multi-talented career at age 16, playing piano to accompany silent films. He switched to organ and joined the NBC Network providing the musical background for many of radio's most famous soap operas including "Myrt & Marge" and "Widder Brown." Returning from military service, he joined the musical staff of ABC. In his long career, Winters played twin consoles with Leo Weber, guested at the Radio City Music Hall and at several New York City Churches. In a TV children's series he was an actor as well as organist. As a composer, he wrote the score for a musical adaptation of *Camille*.

Winters was a member of the American Guild of Organists and of ASCAP. Next of kin, Charles and Kate Dyer.

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