

Egerton Boyce Dies Suddenly At His Home

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Egerton Boyce, organist and choirmaster of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church also member of the faculty of Albert College, died suddenly of a heart attack on Saturday evening at his home, 174 Albert Street. Mr. Boyce had completed giving a lesson to a private student and when his wife returned home shortly after, she found him slumped in the kitchen beyond medical aid.

In the death of Mr. Boyce, the city and district have lost an outstanding musician, an excellent teacher and a man of many fine qualities. He was born in Flinton, 61 years ago, being the son of the late Rev. W. S. P. Boyce and Mrs. Boyce and has been a resident of this city for the past nine years. He was educated in the high schools of Brighton and Napanee and in music at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto where he obtained his ATCM Degree.

In 1919 he became choir-master and organist at Port Perry and in 1922 moved to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Port Hope. Three years later he moved to St. Giles United Church in Hamilton and served that congregation for 23 years and then moved to Trinity Baptist Church in the same city from where he came to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in this city. In Hamilton he not only took an active interest in his churches but he became an able executive in the music field.

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EXECUTIVE HEAD

He became the first vice-president of the Ontario Registered Teachers' Association and late President of the Hamilton Branch for two terms. He also served three terms as chairman of the Canadian College of Organists and received appointment to the executive council of the college.

Not only was he interested in church music and direction but he became active in choral group singing. He became director of Borden's Golden Crest male choir at Hamilton which won the Kiwanis medal in 1951 and the Kiwanis shield the following year. With the Baptist Church choir he won the Hugh Danson memorial shield for top honors in the Hamilton district. He was also adjudicator for the Hamilton Board of Education in music for a number of years.

SERVED THREE LODGES

Mr. Boyce was a member of the Masonic Order in Hamilton and served three Lodges in that city as organist, one of which he served for 24 consecutive years, probably a record in this province. In this city he was an active member of the Rotary Club and served as pianist on many occasions.

Mr. Boyce enjoyed a wide circle of friends in the music world, among the students of Albert and also in the civilian and social life of the district. He was a man of kindly nature, had a faculty of making and keeping friends, was a kind neighbor and loving husband.

He is survived by his wife, the former Rowena Smith of Napanee, one son, Gerald E. Boyce, member of the Moira Secondary school staff, one grandson and two sisters, Mrs. Clarence (Dorothy) Penfound of R.R. 4 Oshawa and Mrs. Rufus (Eleanor) Clarke of Brantford.

The funeral will be held in St. Andrew's Church on Tuesday afternoon with interment in Riverside Cemetery in Napanee.