



GERALD W. BORDNER, 1921-2002

South Bend Tribune, April 28, 2002. Gerald Wayne Bordner, 80, 1336 Woodridge Drive, Knoxville, TN passed away after an illness on April 24 2002.

Gerald was born on July 12, 1921, the son of the late Amza and Flossie (Kaufman) Bordner. He is survived by his wife, Maria Shafford Gray Bordner; a daughter, Bridget of Leland, MI; stepson, Steve Gray of Ranstoul, IL; an aunt, Lelia Perschbacher; and by a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Out of the prevailing super patriotism of the times which led up to WWII, he enlisted for a solid six year hitch in the US Navy and was in a unit band on board the USS Dixie for 28 months. He finished out the last two years (1946-48) of his Navy hitch at Pensacola Naval Air Station. In 1948 he married a Florida girl, Glenda Taylor.

In 1948 he enrolled at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN where he majored in chemical engineering. After one semester he quit at Purdue and enrolled in 1949 at Butler University where he majored in music composition. At Butler he received a BM degree cum laude in music composition, a BM degree cum laude in music education and a MM in music education. He taught two years in Elwood, IN as an assistant director. As the assistant director at Anderson his band was the three time champion of the Indiana State Fair Marching Band Contest.

In 1956 he was commissioned by Belwin, Inc (now Warner/Chappell Music) through his good friend an benefactor Nilo Hovey to write trombone books 1 and 2 in the Belwin Practical Studies series. In 1956 his daughter Bridget was born who now lives in Michigan with her husband and two startlingly beautiful children. He also lost his wife this year in an automobile accident in Peru, IN. He moved back to and worked out of his mother's house in Plymouth, IN.

In 1965 he became a member of ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers). In 1966 he married the former Marie Shafford Gray, a recently widowed and longtime family friend from his hometown Plymouth.

From 1968 until his retirement in 1986, he was Assistant Director at Concord High School where he prided in his jazz ensemble playing a very large repertoire of music each year. He retired with wife Marie to Knoxville, TN.

Burial will be at Oakhill Cemetery, Plymouth.