

CHARLES LEE HILL

Mr. Charles Lee Hill, age 91 of Houston, passed away Monday, October 14, 2002. Mr. Hill was born in Houston Heights on November 15, 1910 to Charles S. and Sue Lee Hill, and from age three, raised by his father and step-mother Martha Ola MacPherson Hill. Mr. Hill was an educator and pioneer and innovator in composing and arranging swing and jazz music for concert band. Mr. Hill studied in public schools in LaPorte and Nacogdoches, but was largely self-taught on the clarinet and saxophone and learned arranging from books and bandleaders with whom he associated.

After receiving a BS degree from Stephen F. Austin State Univ., in 1933 and doing additional study at Harlin Simmons Univ., he received an

MME degree from Univ. of North Texas in 1948. This was followed by postgraduate study at New York Univ., Univ. of North Texas, the Univ. of Houston, and Sam Houston State Univ. During WWII, he served from March 1942 through October 1945 in the U.S. Army.

All of Mr. Hill's 49 years of service as an educator came in the state of Texas. Mr. Hill was the first director of the Troup High School Band from 1934-35 and directed the band at Stephen F. Austin State Univ. during the summers of 1934 and 1935, from 1935-42, he directed the Overton High School Band. Mr. Hill was associate professor of music at Sam Houston State Univ. from 1948-53, director of the Lovelady High School Band from 1953-59, and director of instrumental and vocal music in the North Forest (Houston) School District from 1959-66. From 1966-86, he was librarian at North Forest.

Mr. Hill was a member of ASCAP and other organizations, including the Texas Music Education Assoc., the Assoc. of Concert Bands, the Texas Bandmasters Assoc., and the Texas State Library Assoc. Also a Lions Club member since 1953, he was president twice in two different towns and was selected Lion of the Year numerous times.

In addition to his original compositions, he has published over 20 band arrangements of the works of others. His most popular pieces have been Red Rhythm Valley and At the Gremlin Ball which was performed by the Air Force Band before a combined audience of twenty million people in forty countries on five continents as well as a Command Performance at Buckingham Palace.

Mr. Hill has also written numerous articles for newspapers and music magazines.

Mr. Hill retired in 1986, at the age of 75 and was director of the popular Good Times Brass Band in Houston from 1982-1992. Mr. Hill was Band Director Emeritus of the Houston Space City Concert Band.

A long time member of the United Methodist Church, Downtown Houston, he had been a Sunday school class song leader. Mr. Hill was also a former deacon of the Lovelady Methodist Church.

Preceded in death by his parents, Charles Samuel and Sue Lee Hill; step-mother Martha Ola MacPherson Hill; sister Robbie Jean Hill Guenzel Price.

Survivors include his special friend Madie Hartt; nieces and nephews, Jean Greenough, Martha Guenzel Allen, Paul Guenzel and John Guenzel; great nieces and great nephews, Martha White, Monica Rath and William White; great-great nieces, Brittany Rath, Allie Rath and Allison White; many friends and former students.

Funeral services for Mr. Charles Lee Hill were held Monday, October 21, at 11:00 a.m. at Forest Lawndale, Houston with associate pastor Cy Helm officiating. Interment followed at 2:00 p.m. Monday, October 21 at the Houston National Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Dr. Noah Lee and the members of the Good Times Brass Band.

Mr. Hill requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Charles Lee Hill Band Scholarship Fund, C/O Stephen F. Austin Alumn Assoc., P.O. Box 6096, Nacogdoches, TX. 75962.

**Forest Park Lawndale
Funeral Home**