

MISS BERNICE H. FINCH

Miss Finch, Music. Supervisor, Dies



Miss Bernice H, Finch, 66, of Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca, died at Tompkins County Hospital Monday, April 24, 1967.

She retired six years ago from her post as supervisor of music in the Ithaca School system.

Miss Finch was graduated from the old Conservatory of Music, forerunner of Ithaca College. She was first employed in the school system in 1923 to teach violin in elementary grades. In 1927, she was made head of the instrumental music department and in 1953 became music supervisor.

When she first began teaching in the public schools, she was a senior at the Conservatory.

Under her guidance, the department expanded to teach several hundred pupils regularly and to an instrumental inventory worth thousands of dollars.

A number of her pupils became professional musicians in a variety of fields.

Under Miss Finch's direction, the first public instrumental concerts were given by the pupils in grade schools. Because of her interest, the school has a greater number of stringed instruments than many comparable institutions.

She originated musical appreciation classes in the system, was co-author with Miss Carolyn Marsh of a violin method for teaching, participated in chamber music groups, and was active in humane society interests.

She was member of St. Paul's Methodist Church and the New York State Retired Teachers Assn., member and past president of Mu Phi Epsilon sorority.

She is survived by a brother, Dr. Ernest B. Finch of Alfred and several cousins.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Paul's. Methodist Church, The Rey, Sheldon Stephenson will officiate. Burial will be in Fly Creek Cemetery, Fly Creek, N.Y.

There are no calling hours. Wagner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Posted in The Ithaca Journal (Ithaca, New York) 25 Apr 1967, Tue
Page 3