

HONORING SOUTHWESTERN'S OLD GUARD

Dean Henry Meyer retired several years ago after serving 35 years on the music faculty of Southwestern University, his work there spanning a period that saw the Fine Arts Center develop from a handful of teachers with almost no equipment to its present state of eminence.

Dean Meyer organized the Southwestern University Choir of 40 men and women, the first of its kind in Texas, and took it on many tours. He was first of all a fine teacher: of piano, organ and voice. He was head of the Department of Piano and Organ and Dean of the School of Fine Arts. On top of this he had time to author many articles for music magazines and wrote several books.

Dean Meyer is a kind, gentle, and witty man, now retired and enjoying the quiet life with his wife Leal. They are parents of four children, Jean, Gregory, Rodney, and Henry. Dean Meyer has been for many years a member of the First United Methodist Church Official Board and has served both his church and Southwestern in many ways. This institution is pleased to salute Dr. Meyer in this modest but sincere fashion.

Henry Edwin Meyer	b. 23 July 1890, Jeffersonville, N.Y. m. d. 20 Dec 1976, Georgetown, Texas
Rodney Leal Carl	b. 14 March 1889, Afton, N.Y. d. 13 Apr 1976

children: Jean Elizabeth b. 23 Jul 1915, Morris, Minn.
 Gregory Carl b. 10 Feb 1918 Willmar, Minn.
 Henry Wessel b. 30 Jan 1919, Brownwood, Texas
 Rodney William b. 24 Oct 1922, Brownwood, Texas

Resided 810 E. 12th St., Georgetown, Texas

The Sunday Sun, Georgetown, Texas, Dec 26, 1976.

HENRY E. MEYER, FORMER S. U. DEAN OF MUSIC, DIES

Dr. Henry Edwin Meyer, 86, Dean Emeritus of the School of Fine Arts at Southwestern University, died suddenly on Monday evening, December 20, in Georgetown.

Funeral services, with Davis Funeral Home in charge, will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, December 24, at the First United Methodist Church in Georgetown with interment I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Officiating ministers will be Dr. Durwood Fleming, President of Southwestern University; the Rev. Tom Graves, pastor of the First United Methodist Church; and Dr. William Jones, Administrative Vice-President of Southwestern University.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Jean Meyer Howell of Houston; three sons, Henry W. Meyer of Corte Madera, Calif., Dr. Gregory C. Meyer of Wilmington, Del., and Rodney Meyer of Weston, Ontario, Canada; and ___ grandchildren. His wife preceded him in death on April 13, 1976.

Pallbearers will be Dr. E. H. Steelman, William R. Eanes, Dr. Suk-Soon Suh, Dr. F. Clifford, Tom Douglass, and Paul Burkle.

Honorary pallbearers will be members of Godbey Sunday School Class of the First United Methodist Church. Dr. Ellsworth Peterson, chairman of the music faculty in the School of Fine Arts at Southwestern University, will be the organist.

Well-known in music circles throughout the country, Dr. Meyer was an alumnus of Cincinnati Conservatory, Cornell University's Ithaca College, New York (recipient of an alumni citation), Southwest Texas State University, Ithaca Conservatory of Music, and Southwestern University.

Dr. Meyer joined the Southwestern University music faculty in 1926 and served as professor of piano, organ, sacred music and Dean of the School of Fine Arts until his retirement in 1961. He saw the music division grow from a small department within the university to a nationally-recognized school of fine arts.

Recognized as an outstanding pianist, organist, lecturer, teacher, composer, concert artist and author, Dr. Meyer held membership in American Musicological Society, American Guild of Organists, Texas Composers Guild, Phi Mu Alpha, Sinfonia, Sigma Tau Delta, Scholia, Diapason Club of Austin, and served in various official capacities in Texas Music Teachers Association, Texas Association of Music Schools, Texas Federation of Music Clubs, and National Federation of Music Clubs.

Dean Meyer has been listed in Texas Writers of Today, Who's Who in Texas, Who's Who in American Education, International Blue Book, Personalities of the South, Dictionary of International Biography. He served for 20 years as columnist for the MUSICALE and the SOUTHWESTERN MUSICIAN, an organ of the Texas Music Educators Association, Inc., has had many articles published in music magazines and other publications, and was the author of several books.

Dr. Meyer's many interests included the collecting of old American songsters and re-harmonizing of folk hymns. Housed in the Rare Book Room in the Cody Memorial Library at Southwestern University is his collection of 150 hymnals and books covering four centuries and coming from nine countries. These books were gathered by Dean Meyer during his 35-year tenure as professor of music at the university.

A legend in the music field, Dr. Meyer has been a featured speaker for the National Association of Music Teachers (Washington, D.C.), Texas Federation of Music Clubs, Texas Music Teachers Association, Texas Folklore Society, Scholia, and for many music clubs throughout the state. He has served as organist for choral and hymnic festivals, director of state choir festivals, presented original compositions on programs throughout the southwest, and organized the Southwestern University Choir, the first college group in the southwest to feature a cappella and religious songs.

Dean Meyer held the first Church Music Conference in 1929 at Southwestern University. The second conference in 1930 was attended by Dr. Horace Whitehouse of Northwestern University, who held one patterned after the Southwestern University

Conference in his own college the following year. This was copied by Oberlin College. From the beginning the Church Music Conference has gone all over the country.

Dr. Meyer's compositions include about 25 piano and organ pieces,; many hymn tunes, responses and anthems; a sonatina for piano and violin; 30 secular and sacred songs; 300 arrangements of folk hymns and white spirituals; and many others.

Prior to joining the Southwestern University music faculty, Dr. Meyer taught at Ithaca Conservatory of Music, University of Minnesota, Howard Payne College, Daniel Baker College, and several summer sessions at the University of Texas and Sul Ross College. A native of Jeffersonville, New York, he travelled extensively in this country, Europe, Canada, and Mexico.

AT A GLANCE, by Don Scarbrough (a Georgetown, Texas paper.)

This week our community also says goodbye to a fine man, Dr. Henry Meyer, who died, as I think he would have wished to, on the S. U. campus Monday evening. Dean Meyer, 86, was known to all who have been around for awhile. He was a craftsman at his profession, honored and respected by his peers, loved and cherished by his students for the past half century. He was a most noble, gifted and witty man.

Dean Meyer survived his beloved wife only a few months. Still apparently in good health, he set out Monday evening on his final walk. It was to have been from his home to the home of President Durwood Fleming, who was entertaining the faculty. Near the Fine Arts building where he had worked so long, Dean Meyer stumbled and sank to the ground. A student went to help him but he had already stepped through that door that leads to another and more endearing career. His former students, along with the people here, will mourn his passing, but who could ask a gentler way to turn the final page on a long, useful life.

IN MEMORIAM

(Picture caption: Dean Henry Meyer and Mrs. Meyer, as many will remember them, lending their gracious presence to a campus social function. Mrs. Meyer was particularly proud of the fact that she was a Southwestern alumna.)

The Southwestern community, in fact all of Georgetown, was saddened by the sudden death of Dean Henry Meyer on December 20, 1976. He was 86. He was found on the campus which he loved so well by a group of students, but their efforts to render assistance to him came too late. December 20 was the date of the annual Christmas party for faculty and staff and their families, hosted by President and Mrs. Fleming. It is thought that Dean Meyer was on his way to this party, which he had indicated he would attend as he did each year.

Dean Meyer joined the Southwestern music faculty in 1926 and served as Professor of Piano, Organ, and Sacred Music and Dean of the School of Fine Arts until his retirement in 1961. He was named Dean Emeritus at the time he retired. Even after his retirement

he continued to teach piano in his home to a few students from the community. Both he and Mrs. Meyer, who preceded him in death by only eight months, remained active in church and community affairs and seldom missed an event on the campus. Perhaps for this reason, they were known and respected by generations of students who never had Dean Meyer for a teacher. They entertained graciously in their home, not far from the campus, and their flower-filled yard furnished pleasure to everyone who passed by.

Dr. Meyer was nationally known for his work in church music. His compositions include about 25 piano and organ pieces; many hymn tunes, responses, and anthems; a sonatina for piano and violin; 30 secular and sacred songs; 300 arrangements of folk hymns and white spirituals. His many interests included the collecting of old American songsters and re-harmonization of folk hymns. A lasting memorial to him and his years at Southwestern exists in the Rare Book Room of Cody Memorial Library which houses his collection of 150 hymnals and books covering four centuries and coming from nine countries. These books were gathered by Dean Meyer during his 35 year tenure at Southwestern.

Dean Meyer's passing also signifies the passing of an era in the annals of the University. It is comforting to know that he saw and shared in the growth and top reputation of The School of Fine Arts to which he contributed so much.

WHO'S WHO IN THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST

MEYER, HENRY EDWIN, educator;

Born Jeffersonville, N.Y., July 23, 1890;

Son of Henry August and Eliza (Weber) M.;

Teachers diploma, Ithaca Conservatory, 1910, artists diploma, 1914;

B. A., Southwestern U., 1934;

B. M., Ithaca Conservatory, 1935, B.S., 1935; M. A., S. W. Tex. State Coll., San Marcos, 1942; Married Rodney Leal Carl, Sept. 23, 1914; Children -- Jean, Gregory, Henry, Rodney.

Head music dept. Howard Payne Coll., Brownwood, Tex., 1918-20;

Dean music Daniel Baker Coll., 1920-24;

Dean music Southwestern U., Georgetown, Tex., 1926-42;

Dean of School of Fine Arts, 1942-61,

Professor of piano and organ, 1926-61; Visiting prof. Univ. of Tex., Sul Ross Coll.,

Member of Tex. Music Tchrs. Assn. (pres. 1926-28).

Tex. Assn. Music Schs. (pres. 1947-48).

Rotarian.

Methodist.

Republican.

Home: 810 E University St., Georgetown, TX 78626.

HENRY EDWIN MEYER

By Rodney William Meyer

I had wished to write a novel: not primarily for fame or fortune, but rather to represent truthfully the life of rural America during the nineteenth century. I find that even though I know many truths, they do not bend to my purpose; I have not the skill.

The most of the books in America have been produced by men of the towns for men of the towns. To them the farmer is a clown, a yokel, or a hick. I know him as a man, not stuffed with straw but having a heart and good red blood, aspirations, intelligence, prejudices, and such a love of life and freedom that to him the various daily rounds of the city man appear as unbearable monotony.

Could I but represent him in his joys and sorrows, in his struggles and his little triumphs--to be brief, in his humanity--I should be content. It would require the realism of a Russian, the breadth and catholicity of a Galsworthy, the exquisite sympathy of Ian McLaren with his command of sly and subtle humor, and the honesty and understanding of Hardy. Such insight, such compassion, such gift of expression are far beyond my powers.

Only...when I went through the total files assembled and indexed by Dad had I any comprehension of the extent of this labor of love. To comment on Henry Meyer's contribution seems impossible; one could almost say he was what it is all about, because he was always the most important thing in Leal Meyer's life, and she lived life to the hilt. The terminal portion of Mother's life included several years of intense pain and grievous thought until incurable cancer ran its course. Dad told me that having issued *Recollections* eased Mother's mind somewhat, but that it was most important to her that this edition be distributed. He undertook to her that it would be done, but was unable to complete.

The last day of my father's life on earth he spent finishing a number of Christmas table decorations he had made of bark, pine-needled branches, lovely birds, and ribbon. These he had distributed around the town during the day, then he rushed off on foot (his car had refused to start) to walk through the campus about a thousand yards to the annual President's reception for the faculty at Christmas. He paused for breath (according to students who watched), grasped a low branch of a lovely pecan tree, faced the setting sun, and expired. The spot is only a few yards from the Fine Arts Building which he saw built and in which he had studios and offices. A white dove remaining in one of the decorations was placed on the casket cover at the memorial service; the cover was specified to be of eucalyptus by Jean and Gregory in memory of his love for living things. Mother had preceded him in Easter season; his last day was dedicated to his belief in Christmas and friends. I'm sure he enjoys the humor in the fact that he went away while on his way to party--a Christmas party. Rest his soul!