

News-Sentinel, The (Fort Wayne, IN) - Monday, February 1, 1999

DR. FREEMAN BURKHALTER

BERNE - 1908-1999

Dr. Freeman Burkhalter, 90, of Berne, a retired music teacher, died Saturday, Jan. 30, 1999, at home.

The Berne native taught music at Berne High School from 1935-1975, was a member of First Mennonite Church, where he was music minister for 50 years, was recently choir director at Geneva's First Mennonite Church, a recipient of Sagamore of the Wabash, was chosen Hoosier Musician of the Year in 1985 by Indiana Music Education Association, conducted his 100th Handel's Messiah this past December and was an avid gardener whose special interest was roses.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Kay; and sisters Frances and Lorraine Burkhalter both of Berne, and Gertrude Mason of Crystal Springs, Miss. He was preceded in death by a sister and a brother.

Services are 2 p.m. Tuesday at First Mennonite Church, Berne, with calling one hour before services. Calling is also from 2 to 8 p.m. today and also from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday at Yager-Kirchhofer Funeral Home, Berne. Burial will be in M.R.E. Cemetery, Berne.

Memorials are to the church's missions or Geneva First United Methodist Church Communion Memorial Chalice.

Information provided by Yager-Kirchhofer Funeral Home, Berne, 1-219-589-3101.