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Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier

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Edward F. Inge Dies; Well Known As Saxophonist With Area Bands

Funeral services for Edward F. Inge, a well-known Buffalo saxophonist who played with and taught jazz musicians here since the 1940s, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in Alfred H. Lewis Mortuary, 968 Jefferson Ave.

Inge, 82, died Saturday (Oct. 8, 1988) in his Buffalo home. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Born in St. Louis in 1906, Inge made his way to Buffalo in the early 1940s.

He played saxophone for a number of area big bands whose leaders included C.Q. Price and Don Redmond.

He also played and arranged for Andy Kirk's Clouds of Joy.

For many years Inge performed in the Anchor Bar with the group Four Quarters.

He also appeared in the former Club Moonglow on Michigan Avenue and the Cotton Club on Broadway.

A member of the Colored Musicians Club, Inge was listed in a



Edward F. Inge

recent British edition of "Who's Who in Music."

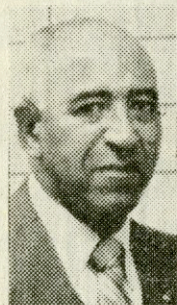
He worked at the West Seneca Developmental Center until about 10 years ago, when he retired.

Inge's wife, the former Adele Childers, died in 1980.

OBITUARIES

Leroy Jackson Jr. dies; active in politics, groups

Leroy W. Jackson Jr., 68, of Buffalo, who was active in Erie County politics and civic organizations, died Wednesday (Aug. 1, 1990) in Millard Fillmore Hospital after a long illness.



A native of Richmond, Va., he worked at American Standard from 1940 to 1941 and at Buffalo Arms from 1941 to 1943.

From 1943 to 1946, Jackson served as a radar operator in the U.S. Marine Corps 151st Defense Battalion, including stints in the Ellice and Marshall islands.

After his discharge, he worked at the Harrison Radiator Division of General Motors from 1946 until he retired in 1980. He was a member of United Auto Workers' Retirees Local 634.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Jackson served on two joint state legislative committees on migrant labor and labor conditions. He also served on Buffalo's Zoning Board of Appeals from 1979 to 1981.

He was a former chairman of the 11th Zone Democratic Committee and former president of Democrats Unlimited. He was a member of the Erie County Democratic Executive Committee, the Ross Freeman Democratic Club and the Coalition for a Better Buffalo.

Jackson served on the board of directors of the Buffalo chapter of the National Caucus & Center for the Black Aged, was chairman of the Senior Citizens Committee at William Street and a vice chair-

man of the Buffalo subregion of the Northern Region Black Political Caucus.

He was a member of the National Council of Senior Citizens, American Association of Retired Persons, William-Emslie YMCA Senior Citizens, Senior Citizens Committee and the Advisory Council of the Senior Companion Program. He also was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Buffalo Urban League, the Buffalo Negro Scholarship Foundation, the Leadership Committee of the Buffalo United Negro Scholarship Fund and the Afro-American Historical Society of Western New York.

Jackson also was active with the Child and Family Services of Erie County, Operation PUSH, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Niagara Frontier Association for Sickle Cell Disease, American Legion Bennett Wells Post 1780 and Triad Housing Corp.

He was active with Buffalo's youth as well, serving as past president of the Johnson C. Wells Tennis Club, teaching tennis and badminton at the old Urban League building, serving on the Youth Committee of the old Michigan Avenue YMCA and as its representative to the Weona Camps Committee and as an Elliott District Boy Scout Commissioner.

Survivors include his wife, the former Lillian Lewis; a daughter Cynthia Jackson McSheeters; a son Leroy W. III; a sister, Mary B., and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Friday in First Shiloh Baptist Church, 15 Pine St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

LeRoy Jackson Dies, Was Community Activist

Submitted By
Mrs. Verlie Walton

A celebration of Everlasting Life for LeRoy W. Jackson, Jr., was held Friday, August 3, at 1 p.m., at First Shiloh Baptist Church, 15 Pine St. The Rev. Leslie D. Braxton, is Pastor.

Mr. Jackson, 68, was the son of the late LeRoy W. Sr., and Josephine Jackson. He was born in Richmond, Virginia, on Aug. 22, 1921. He died Wednesday, August 1, (1990) in Millard Fillmore Hospital, after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Jackson worked at American Standard from 1940 to 1941 and at Buffalo Arms from 1941 to 1943. From 1943 to 1946, he served as a radar operator in the U. S. Marine Corps 151st Defense Battalion, including stints in the Ellice and Marshall Islands.

After his discharge, Mr. Jackson worked at the Harrison Radiator Division of General Motors, from 1946 until he retired in 1980. He was a member of the United Auto Workers' Retirees Local 634.

Mr. Jackson's involvement in politics spanned more than thirty years. In the late '60s and early '70s, he served on two joint state legislative committees on migrant labor and labor conditions. He also served on Buffalo's Zoning Board of Appeals from 1979 to 1981.

Mr. Jackson was a former Chairman of the 11th Zone Democratic Committee. He was the former President of Democrats Unlimited and was a member of the Erie County Democratic Executive Committee; the Ross Freeman Democratic Club and the Coalition for a Better Buffalo.

He served on the board of directors of the Buffalo Chapter of the National Caucus & Center for the Black Aged; was chairman of the Senior Citizens Committee at William St. and was Vice Chairman of



LeRoy W. Jackson, Jr.

the Buffalo subregion of the Northern Region Black Political Caucus.

Mr. Jackson was a member of the National Council of Senior Citizens; American Association of Retired Persons; the William-Emslie YMCA Senior Citizens; the Advisory Council of the Senior Companion Program.

He was also a member of the NAACP; the Buffalo Urban League; the Buffalo Negro Scholarship Foundation; the Leadership Committee of the Buffalo United Negro Scholarship Fund and the Afro-American Historical Society of Western New York.

Mr. Jackson was also active with the Child and Family Services of Erie County; Operation PUSH; HOME; Niagara Frontier Association for Sickle Cell Disease; American Legion Bennett Wells Post 1780 and Triad Housing Corp.

He was active with Buffalo's youth, as well, serving as Past President of the Johnson C. Wells Tennis Club, teaching tennis and badminton at the old Urban League building; serving on the Youth Committee of the old Michigan Avenue YMCA and as its representative to the Weona Camps Committee and as an Ellicott District Boy Scout Commissioner.

His survivors are: his wife, the former Lillian Lewis; a daughter, Cyn-

thia Jackson McSheeters; a son, LeRoy W., III; a sister, Mary B.; and three grandchildren: Constance and Carmen McSheeters and Dana Jackson; two nieces: Annette Jackson and Cheryl (Dwayne)

Snead; and two great nephews: Dwayne and Daniel LeRoy Snead.

Pall bearers were: Frank Booker, Luke Brown, Edward Hearn-don, Moody Pugh, Tom Smith and Phil Twitty.

Honorary Pall bearers were: The Hon. Archie Amos, The Hon. George K. Arthur, The Hon. Clifford Bell, The Hon. Roger Blackwell, the Hon. David Collins, the Hon. Arthur O. Eve, The Hon. James W. Pitts, The Hon. William Robinson, Charles R. Johnson, John A. Johnson, Leeland N. Jones, Marshall Miles, King W. Peterson and Winton W. Hardiman.

JACKSON—J.C.

Suddenly Aug. 11, 1985, beloved husband of Mattiel Hall Jackson; father of four children; brother of James Jackson of Paducah, Kentucky; also survived by a host of other relatives and friends. Funeral services Thurs. at 1 PM from the Community Baptist Church, 55 Cherry St. Family present Wed. 7-9 PM at the THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, INC., 995 Genesee St.

Raymond E. Jackson dies at 89; musician, ex-leader of Shriners

Services for Raymond E. Jackson, 89, a former international leader of the Shriners and a co-founder of the Colored Musicians Club of Buffalo, will be held at 1 p.m. Monday in First Shiloh Baptist Church, 15 Pine St.

Jackson, who died Wednesday (Feb. 14, 1990), was a Buffalo native.

He climbed rapidly through the Masonic organization after he joined St. John's Lodge 16 in 1921.

He was a 33rd degree Mason, was the youngest person to become Grand Master of New York State Prince Hall Masons, and from 1939 to 1955, served as Imperial Potentate, making him chief executive of the Ancient and Egyptian Arabic Order, Nobels of the Mystic Shrine, of North and South America.

As a Shrine leader, he helped create the Foundation for Research on Tuberculosis and Cancer, benefiting such institutions as Howard University and the Roswell Park Memorial Institute. Although he left school while attending Buffalo Technical High School, he was awarded an honorary doctorate for his Shrine activities from Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio.

He edited and published the Shriners' journal, the Pyramid, encouraged Shriners' temples to establish marching bands, chanters choirs and drill teams, and during his time in office, saw Buffalo's

Royal Serenaders from Hadji Temple 61 become nationally known for its male chorus of chanters.

During his career as a professional musician in the 1920s and 1930s, Jackson was a member of an orchestra that played throughout Western New York and Canada, was conductor of the concert band of Musicians Local 533, which played at the old Michigan Avenue YMCA, and was drum major for the marching unit of the musicians' union.

Jackson served as a national representative of the American Federation of Musicians from 1936 to 1940 and crossed the country several times alone by automobile. Because of racial segregation at the time, he became an expert automobile mechanic in the process.

During the 1960s, he worked as director of rumor control for the city's then-Department of Human Relations, helping defuse rumors about racial unrest. He also was a maintenance supervisor at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratories.

He was a director on the local and national boards of the Urban League.



Mrs. Quintella Williams Jasper Buried From St. Philip's

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for Quintella Williams Jasper, on Tuesday, April 30, at St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Jasper was the daughter of the late Thomas and Quintella Williams, and was born in

1914.

She graduated from Hutchinson Central High School. While in high school, she received honors for sewing and was a winner of the decathlon.

As a member of St. Philip's Church, she had been active in the Episcopal Church Women; was a Sunday School teacher; and an adult leader for the Episcopal Youth Fellowship. She had been active in "Faith Alive," and was given the Bishop's Distinguished Service Award.

Mrs. Jasper was also a member of the Full Gospel Fellowship Businessmen's Association, P.T.L. Club; was a staff member at 1490 Senior Citizens Enterprise, where she was a sewing instructor. She

was a member of the 1490 Choir.

In 1976, Mrs. Jasper was named "Grandmother of the Year in Erie County."

Her survivors are: three brothers: Messiah Williams, Dallas Williams, and Stanley Williams; a sister, Ruth Askia; four children: William Reynolds, Bruce Reynolds, Quintella Backey, and Maria Legg; ten grandchildren and one great grandchild; and a most devoted friend, Franklin King.

Her brother, Stanley, wrote the "Night Life" column in the Criterion from 1935 to 1942.

locally produced programs. He is also qualified to operate all major studio cameras.

The honors bestowed on him include selection by the National Junior Chamber of Commerce, as an Outstanding Young Man in America, the Muscular Dystrophy Special Award, and a Media Award from the Ellicott District Coalition of Agencies.

JASPER—Quintella

April 26, 1985, wife of the late Theodore L. Jasper; mother of William A. Reynolds, Bruce M. Reynolds, Quintella L. Backey and Maria A. Legg; also survived by three brothers, one sister, nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild and other relatives. The family will receive friends 7-9 PM at H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY INC., 968 Jefferson Ave. Funeral services Tues. at 11 AM from St. Phillips Episcopal Church, 18 Sussex. Rev. James D. Manning officiating. Interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

JOHNSON—Eva

June 6, 1991. The family will receive friends Monday 7-9 PM at the THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME INC., 995 Genesee St. Funeral service 1 PM Tuesday from the Gethsemanae Baptist Church, 55 Grape St.

JOHNSON—Florence (Crawford)
January 21, 1987, sister of Fritz Crawford;
also survived by a host of relatives and
friends. Family present Friday from 7-9
PM at Friendship Baptist Church, 402
Clinton St., where funeral service will be
held Saturday at 1 PM. Arrangements by
THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME
INC.

JOHNSON—Horace. Rev. "Billy"

October 22, 1987, of Buffalo N.Y. Beloved husband of Mamie; dear father of Mrs. June Stanford (William) of Rochester, Patricia B. and Holly B. of Atlanta GA; brother of Mrs. Maggie Jones of Montgomery AL, Mrs. Josephine Holmes (Dr. Herbert) and Charles Robert (Gwendolyn); grandfather of Jessica and Emily Stanford of Rochester N.Y. Also survived by other relatives and friends. Arrangements are entrusted to BUFFALO MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC, 66 East Utica St. Friends may call Sunday at Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, 641 Masten Ave. Family present 2:30-4 PM and 7-9 PM. Funeral services Monday 1 PM from Lincoln. Friends invited. Entombment Birchwood Mausoleum, Forest Lawn Cemetery. Flowers are gratefully declined. Contributions may be made to the United Negro College Fund.

JOHNSON—Viola

April 4, 1990, mother of Marvin, Carl and Anthony; sister of Elizabeth Henderson of Gary, IN, Willie and Thad (Sarah) Johnson; also survived by six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and other relatives. Family present Sunday 7-9 PM at THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME INC., 995 Genesee St. Funeral service Monday at 11 AM from New Covenant United Church of Christ, 459 Clinton St.

JONES—Maggie

December 17, 1988. Mother of Mrs. Olivia Thurmond and Mrs. Alma Jackson; step-mother of James Jones, sister of Victoria Cherry and Daisy Powell of Richmond VA. Also survived by eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The family will receive friends Thursday 7-9 PM, at the MT. Olive Baptist church, 629 East Delavan Ave, where funeral services will be held Friday at 1 PM. Arrangements by THOMAS. T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

JONES—Mamie

April 15, 1991, beloved sister of Mary Hankerson. Friends may call Friday 12 noon-5 PM at the H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY INC., 968 Jefferson Ave. Family will be present Friday 7-9 PM at the Free Spirit Baptist Church, 1242 Jefferson Ave., where funeral services will be held Saturday at 11 AM.

MAILED 11-11-91

Rev. Willis Lee Jones, community leader

The Rev. Willis Lee Jones, whose plans for revitalizing the city's East Side brought some of the first new construction in 20 years to the neighborhood around the old War Memorial Stadium, died Tuesday (Nov. 10, 1992) in Veterans Hospital after a long illness.

Mr. Jones was the pastor of Mount Ararat Baptist Church, which he founded at 603 Clinton St. in 1964. A year later, he moved the church to its present home at 971 Jefferson Ave. where funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

The church is two blocks from the former stadium at Best Street and Jefferson where the Buffalo Bills and Bisons once played.

Mr. Jones, active in many community organizations and a political ally of Mayor Griffin, sought to revitalize the Jefferson business strip and provide housing to area residents.

He helped develop the 100-unit, seven-story senior citizens apartment complex known as God's City in the early 1980s following planning that began in the late '60s, with contributions from his congregation, and federal, state

and local funds.

While his plans for commercial development on the east side of Jefferson never were realized, the senior citizens project was at the time the first major construction in the area in two decades.

He also was involved with neighborhood youth through the church's many programs and recruited up to 35 young men into the ministry.

Born and educated in Lake Providence, La., Mr. Jones served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He moved to Buffalo in 1953 and joined the Open Door Church of God in Christ. It was there that Mr. Jones was called into the ministry and later joined New Zion Baptist Church. He founded his own church soon after that.

He worked for 28 years at the Chevrolet plant in the Town of Tonawanda until he retired in 1984.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara; four daughters, Darlene Jones, Lucy Atkinson, Jackie Flemming and Carmetris Harper; four sons, Lester of Mountainview, Calif.; Willis II, Dwain and the Rev. Keith; three sisters, Rose Jones and Esker, both of New Orleans, Cora Jones of Alaska; seven brothers, Henry, Edward, Charles, Percy, Paul, Cleveland and Dr. Young B., and 13 grandchildren.



James C. Knuckles Sr.

Funeral services for James C. Knuckles Sr., retired custodian for the Federal Reserve Bank in Buffalo, were held today in St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church. Burial was in Aca-cia Park Cemetery, Pendleton.

Knuckles, 86, of Buffalo, died Wednesday (June 9, 1993) in Erie County Medical Center following an illness.



The Greenville, S.C., native graduated from Sterling High School in Greenville and moved to Buffalo during World War II. One of 14 children, he worked two jobs for much of his life.

He worked for Houdaille Industries and Bethlehem Steel Corp. and retired from the Federal Reserve position in 1971.

He was a member of Paramount Lodge 75, Prince Hall Ma-sons, for 40 years and served as treasurer for 22 years. He was ac-tive in other social organizations and for 33 years was a member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, where he was an usher and sexton.

More recently, he was a mem-ber of St. Michael & All Angels and delivered altar flowers to the sick and shut-ins after Sunday ser-vices.

He looked after many nieces and nephews as well as his own children.

His wife, Edith L., died in 1985.

Survivors include a son, James Jr. of Richmond, Va.; a daughter, Michele Ely of Rochester; a sister, Agnes Mack of Greenville, S.C.; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Lester Levine, ran jewelry, furniture stores

A memorial service for Lester J. Levine, 81, who formerly operated jewelry and furniture stores, was held today in Delaware Park Memorial Chapel, 2141 Delaware Ave.

Levine, of Cheektowaga, died Saturday (May 30, 1992) in Millard Fillmore Hospital after a long illness.



A Buffalo native, he attended Hutchinson Central High School, where he played football. Ohio State University offered him a football scholarship, but he was unable to use it.

Levine started work at General Motors' Chevrolet Motor Division plant. He also sold jewelry, frequently to railway employees, and in the early 1940s, he opened Lester's Credit Jewelers on William Street.

In 1955, he opened Lester's Furniture Store at Broadway and Pine Street and later combined the two stores into one location at

1288 Jefferson Ave.

"He had a store that was very well known on William Street and he was successful," said his son, Brian of Williamsville.

The jewelry and furniture store closed about 25 years ago, his son said.

Levine continued working until about nine months ago with his brother, Norman, who has a vending business.

Levine was a past president of the Jefferson Businessmen's Association and a member of Montefiore Lodge, B'nai B'rith; The 24 Karat Club, and the AD Club.

He was a longtime member of Temple Shaarey Zedek and was a member of the Williamsville Pool Club.

He was a thoroughbred horse owner and also enjoyed fishing.

In addition to his son and brother, he is survived by his wife, the former Gladys Sobel; a daughter, Diane Brown of Toronto; a sister, Lillian Glaser of Williamsville, and four grandchildren.

LEWIS—Mattie Crockett

April 1, 1987, beloved mother of Marjorie (John) Montague, Aubrey (Doris) Crockett, Jacqueline Thornton and Gloria Dixon; stepmother of Jeannette Williams, James (Mary) Lewis Jr., Mattie (Albert) Thompson, Robert (Frances) Lewis, Sarah Lewis and Wardell (Viola) Lewis; sister of Emma Neal Trapp of Detroit, Michigan; also survived by grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives. Friends may call 7 to 9 PM at St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church, 610 Eagle St. at Monroe, where funeral services will be conducted Monday, 1 PM. Friends are invited. Contributions may be made to the St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1404, Buffalo, NY 14210. Arrangements by H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY INC.

LICATA—Charles C.

February 18, 1987, of Lancaster, NY, beloved husband of Helen (Weiss) Licata; brother of Sal (Gertrude), John (Mary), Josephine (the late Robert) Ryan, Frank (Leonora) Licata, and the late Joseph (Virginia) Licata; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral from the funeral home of WENDEL & LOECHER INC., 27 Aurora St., Lancaster, NY, Saturday morning at 9:30 AM. Mr. Licata was a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 1137. Family present Friday evening 7-9.

Adam Lidge Sr., retired auto shop operator

A memorial service for Adam Lidge Sr., 81, a retired auto shop and muffler franchise operator, will be held at 1 p.m. Friday in the



Thomas T. Edwards Funeral Home, 995 Genesee St.

Lidge, a native of Arkansas, died Monday (June 25, 1990) after suffering a heart attack in his home in Buffalo.

He came to Buffalo in 1929 and studied auto mechanics at Buffalo Technical High School. He opened his own shop in 1941 on Mortimer Street. It was the first black-owned muf-

fler franchise in Buffalo. He later moved his business to Jefferson Avenue and operated it until his retirement about 10 years ago.

Lidge was an active member of the YMCA and an avid tennis player and instructor. He also acquired a collection of gold and silver medals in various New York Senior Citizens Olympics. He recently won a medal in state darts competition as well as in swimming events.

Survivors include three sons, Charles of Toronto, Adam Jr. and Richard; four daughters, Donna Smith of North Carolina, Norma Torres, Elizabeth Burgos and Marlene Boyd; 24 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

LITTLE—Odell

December 10, 1991. The family will receive friends Thursday 7-9 PM at the THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, INC., 995 Genesee St. where the funeral service will be held 11 AM Friday.

Earl W. Littlejohn, longtime jazz bassist

A Mass of Christian Burial for Earl W. Littlejohn, 75, a jazz musician who played with some of the top bands, including those of Louis Armstrong, George Clark and Elvin Shepherd, will be offered at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. Columba's Catholic Church, Eagle and Hickory streets. Prayers will be said at 9:30 in the Richard D. Meadows Funeral Chapel, 2528 Bailey Ave.

Littlejohn died Monday (Feb. 26, 1990) in Sheehan Memorial Hospital after a long illness.



He was born in Pittsburgh and attended school there before moving to Buffalo and establishing himself as a top bass player.

He told friends that he had no formal musical education but learned to play bass when he was 14.

Known professionally as "Sir Earl of Littlejohn," he also played for singer Billie Holiday and other blues and jazz stars and was associated with jazz musician Snuff Smith.

Locally, he performed at the Anchor Bar, Bafo's, the Onyx Club, Little Harlem and other nightspots.

He is survived by a brother, Cornelius.

Benjamin F. Long, Customs Inspector

Funeral services are scheduled Thursday for Benjamin F. Long, 69, a World War II veteran who became the first black customs inspector in Buffalo. The 1 p.m. service will be held in Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, 641 Masten Ave.

Burial will be Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda.

Long died Sunday (Jan. 11, 1987) in his home in Buffalo after a long illness.

Born in Talladega County, Alabama, he attended West Virginia State University and Talladega College.

He served with the Army in Europe during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart after he



was wounded in combat. He attended the University of Florence in Italy while recovering from his war-time injuries.

After the war, he moved to Buffalo to begin a long career in government service. He started as a clerk with the Veterans Administration and later became an auditor for the Internal Revenue Service. He retired from the Customs Service in 1983 as a supervisory customs inspector at the Peace Bridge.

He was active in Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church and was also a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

He is survived by his wife, the former Virginia Hickerson; a son, Charles B. of Columbia, Md.; a daughter, Debra Long-Doyle of Washington; a foster daughter, Mary Carter; a sister, Bessie Smith, and four grandchildren.

James H. Lyons, 62, Dies; Local Radio Personality

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday for James H. Lyons, 62, one of Buffalo's first black disc jockeys and an employee of the city's Department of Inspection and Licenses, in the Agape AME Church, 22 Northland Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Mr. Lyons, who died Monday (Dec. 28, 1981) in Buffalo General Hospital, was a lifelong Buffalo resident and a leader in black community affairs. He was a U.S. Army veteran and graduate of the U.S. Army Air Defense School and the Command and General Staff College.



A professional singer from the age of 16, he collaborated with jazz composer and pianist Jay McShann in writing the Army musical "We Also Serve" while assigned to the Special Services section of the Army.

From 1955 through the late 1960s he was prominent in area radio, conducting his own show, "The Lyons Den," on WXRA in Kenmore (later WINE) and WWOL in Buffalo.

At WWOL he also produced a gospel music program, "The Upper Room." He later was public-service director and a full-time disc jockey for WUFO. He helped put on benefit

shows for the United Negro College Fund.

Earlier, after leaving military service, Mr. Lyons worked for Westinghouse and in 1949 joined Bell Aircraft as a technical writer and illustrator.

In 1958 he teamed up with Isaiah Richardson, a photographer, to produce the 100-page "Negro Directory of the Niagara Frontier," which listed more than 2,000 professional area black persons.

He formed the Jimmy Lyons Construction Co. after leaving broadcasting, and in 1968 joined the city department in which he worked as a housing inspector, rehabilitation construction analyst and neighborhood housing specialist.

A 1937 graduate of Buffalo Technical High School, he attended West Virginia State College and later the University of Buffalo, where he was an engineering student.

Earlier this year he was elected president of the Buffalo Chapter of Blacks in Government. He was a member of the YMCA and past member of the Urban League.

Surviving are: his wife, the former Ruth Frink; a son, James Jr. of Philadelphia; three daughters, JoAnne L. Wooten of Upper Marlboro, Md., and Gwendolyn and Gail; four brothers, Archie and Kenneth of Philadelphia, Lloyd of Dallas and Norman; a half-brother, Alan Barnum of Bermuda; and a sister, Gladys Hill of Philadelphia.

Ruth F. Lyons, Retired City Teacher Wife of Disc Jockey, Is Dead at 73

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, 641 Masten Ave., for Ruth F. Lyons, 73, a retired teacher who spent most of her career working with economically disadvantaged children. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Mrs. Lyons, who was the wife of Buffalo's first African-American radio personality, died Wednesday (June 15, 1988) in Roswell Park Memorial Institute.



LYONS—Ruth F.

June 15, 1988, of Buffalo, NY, formerly of Charlotte, NC, beloved wife of the late James H. Lyons, Sr.; loving mother of James H. Lyons, Jr., JoAnne Lyons-Wooten (William), Gail L. Lyons, Gwen Lyons; grandmother of Ayanna Lyons-Wooten, and Kunjani Lyons-Latimer; also survived by many other relatives and friends. Family will receive friends Friday 7-9 PM at the H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY, INC., 968 Jefferson Ave. Friends are invited to attend services at Lincoln Memorial Methodist Church, 641 Maston Ave., Saturday 11 AM.

Born in Shallotte, N.C., the former Ruth Frink attended school there and graduated with a degree in education from Fayetteville (N.C.) State Teachers College. She taught in her home state before moving to Buffalo and marrying Jimmy Lyons Sr., a disc jockey on Buffalo radio in the late 1950s.

In Buffalo, Mrs. Lyon worked for the Internal Revenue Service. She began teaching again through the federal government's Early Push program, designed to help poor children in the city's schools. She remained a teacher with the program until her retirement in the late 1970s. Mrs. Lyons ran a clothing store on William Street with her husband in the late 1940s.

She was an active member of Agape AME Church and later Lincoln Memorial Church. After her retirement, she also was a volunteer for the Blind Association.

Survivors include a son, James Lyons Jr.; three daughters, Jo Anne Lyons Wooten of Mitchellville, Md., Gwen Lyons of Forestville, Md., and Gail Lyons, and two grandchildren.