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Throng Mourns At Rites For James A. Hennessy

AUBURN—Mourned widely by people in Auburn to whom he had brought much of the best in music and theatrical art for many years, James A. Hennessy was buried Dec. 6 following solemn requiem rites of Holy Mother, the Church.

James A. Hennessy Won Renown As Choir And Concert Director

AUBURN—For forty years director of Holy Family Choir a soloist in his own right, and nationally known for his concert directing, James A. Hennessy who died here Dec. 3 in a great loss to the cultural life of Auburn. James A. Hennessy was born in Auburn Dec. 11, 1870. At the age of 7 he began his career as a singer when he was lifted onto a stool to sing with the Holy Family Church choir. As a choir director he won renown in Rochester and other cities when his choir sang there. He was a past grand knight of Auburn Council, Knights of Columbus and a member of Auburn Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the Holy Name Society of Holy Family Church.

Taking an interest in early years in theatricals, he was assisted by his brother, the late Daniel Hennessy of New York, a high executive of the Keith and Albee productions.

An earnest and hard worker, Mr. Hennessy took charge of details of productions in which he was interested. He left a sick bed on Nov. 17 to direct the appearance of the Don Pasquale Grand Opera Company in the first of a series of civic concerts to be given in Auburn this season at Emerson Auditorium.

Down through the years he presented several of the ever popular Gilbert and Sullivan light operas with local talent. He often played roles in the operas and one of his outstanding successes was as Gaspar, the Miser in the "Chimes of Normandy."

After taking over the Bartin Opera House in North Street, he later managed the Auditorium in Water Street. Success attended his efforts in bringing the great stars of Grand Opera and other first run shows from New York.

Among the great singers who appeared at the big theater were Gail Curri Schumacher-Hook, Geraldine Farrar, John McCormack, Mme. Louise Homer and others. Some of them were brought back for repeat performances. Under his direction, the Russian Symphony Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Orchestra and other leading concert aggregations delighted Auburn music lovers.

Practically all of the noted actors and actresses of New York theaters in comedies, comic operas and dramas were brought to Auburn through the instrumentality of Mr. Hennessy.

On many occasions the players and musicians of prominent companies who came to Auburn, under his sponsorship gave recitals for the benefit of the inmates of Auburn Prison and were given rousing receptions.

Known as "Jimmy" to all his friends, Mr. Hennessy's death is deeply mourned wherever he was known and esteemed.

His sister, Mrs. Esther Hennessy of Auburn is his sole survivor.

St. Aloysius (Auburn) PLAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

AUBURN—Mrs. M. J. Hatch was chairman of the Christmas bazaar of food and fancy goods held Friday and Saturday of this week at 25 Genesee Street by the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Rosary Society of St. Aloysius Church.

Others on the committee were Mrs. James Wallace, Mrs. Rose Yantch, Mrs. George Hester, Mrs. John G. Mrs. A. J. Toutant, Mrs. Fred Casper, Mrs. Mildred Woods, Mrs. Charles Hutson, Mrs. L. C. Salzer, Mrs. John Offenburg, Mrs. Stanley Lewis, Mrs. John Hulbert, Mrs. Frank Richards, Mrs. Walter Champlain, and Mrs. Joseph Vail.

Plans are also being made for the Christmas party to be held in the Parish House, Wednesday, December 17 with Mrs. Carl Anton and Mrs. John Offenburg in charge.

Mr. Hennessy, choir director and soloist at Holy Family Church, retired postal employe at the Auburn Postoffice and of state-wide prominence in the theatrical field, died Dec. 3 in Mercy Hospital at the age of 71 years.

Following services at the home, 142 North Bl., the body of Mr. Hennessy was accompanied to Holy Family Church by an impressive procession of mourners.

Solemn Requiem Mass was offered by the Rev. John J. Healy in Holy Family Church, with the Very Rev. Dean John A. Conway as Deacon and the Rev. William Davis as Subdeacon.

In the Sanctuary were: the Rev. Dr. William E. Cowen, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Auburn; the Rev. Andrew T. Dissell of Hornell; the Rev. Dennis Hickey, the Rev. John B. Crowley, pastor of St. Aloysius Church and the Rev. Jerome Holubowicz, C.M.C., pastor of St. Hyacinth Church.

Sadly reminiscent of the many occasions on which Mr. Hennessy had been in the church's choir left as social and choir director, was the impressive singing of Holy Family's choir. Miss Kathleen Plunkett was at the organ.

Mueller's Mass, Vatican edition, was sung in its entirety by Edmund Leonard of Syracuse, tenor, with an augmented choir of Auburn singers assisting.

Burial was in the family plot in St. Joseph's Cemetery where Dean Conway officiated, assisted by Fathers Healy and Crowley.

Bearers were Frank H. Shields, Edward T. Boyle, Charles M. Gehring, Frank L. Brannick, Raymond Corcoran, Richard Eccles.

St. Mary's (Auburn) 'ALL-STAR' CAST

AUBURN—An all-star cast for the successful play "Holiday" by Philip Barry under the direction of Kathryn Nugent is promised for the Lyceum Players' presentation, Dec. 15 in Central High School Auditorium.

Two of the major leads are handled by Barbara Burns and Wm. McDonald. Miss Burns needs no introduction to Auburn dramatic followers as she will be remembered for her outstanding success in the leading role in "The Royal Family" and her part in "What a Life," two of the Lyceum Players' recent major successes. Her part as Linda Seton, a well meaning sister, fed up with the artificialities of her own social set, gives Miss Burns ample opportunity to display her dramatic ability.

William McDonald, although a newcomer in the Lyceum Players' ranks, is by no means unknown in dramatic circles.

Mary-R. Kanelly is cast as Julia Selon, a member of the "400," who has allied herself to a young man with an unconventional desire to play while he is young and work during his later years. Mrs. Kanelly has scored hits in "Joyous Season" and "Royal Family."

Frank Hill first claimed the attention of dramatic followers with his performance of a minor role in "Royal Family." He further displayed his talents in the excellent characterization of Henry Aldrich, title role of "What a Life." Previous to his association with the Lyceum Players, Mr. Hill appeared in the Auburn Community Players' production "Murder in the Old Red Barn." In "Holiday" he featured in the character of Ned Selon, the never-do-well son of the family.

Gerald Fitzgerald is chairman of the Ticket Committee for the production, assisted by Isabel Stapleton, Margaret Murray, Margaret Barry, Gerald Wilson and Vincent LaMay. Mrs. Thomas Ditton and Dorothy Fitzgerald have charge of the dress rehearsal. Mary Driscoll will direct the following ushers: Jane Pine, Violet Fitzgerald, Wilma Young, Dorothy Kelly, Helen Van Riper. Publicity for "Holiday" is under the direction of Jean Kimball and Willard Powell.

A ROSE

I love the dainty rosebud
Clad in shimmering dew
It spells richness for the lowly
As only humble things can do.
—Mary Marguerite Curran