

## Variety of Compositions

# Clifford Higgin, Local Composer, Dies Monday

Clifford Higgin, 78, of 3239 Elbow Drive, prominent Calgary composer, organist and choirmaster, died Monday evening at his home.

He was born in Bacup, Lancashire, England in 1873 and studied music under Charles Nuttal. In 1896 he moved to Blackpool where he became interested in choral singing and soon organized the Orpheus Glee Society. His competitive work with choirs won him the conductor's medallion at the Concours International de Music in Paris in 1912.

**AT ONE TIME**, the Blackpool Light Opera Society of which he was conductor, was awarded perfect marks in festival competition. Dr. A. S. Vogt, conductor of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir was in the audience and it was on his recommendation that Mr. Higgin came to Brant, Ont., as conductor of the Schubert choir and organist and choirmaster at Brant Ave. Methodist Church.

Dr. Vogt's recommendation again brought Mr. Higgin to Calgary as organist and choirmaster at Knox United Church. He moved to Vancouver in 1926, but returned to Calgary two years later.

His compositions covered a wide range, from a short oratorio "Calvary" and a symphony "Freedom" to light operas and children's musical plays. Most widely known in Calgary were a symphonic sketch "Lake Louise" and "Forest Fire", a choral ballad for choir and orchestra.

**MR. HIGGIN** was keenly interested in all phases of musical activities. At the time of his death he was honorary president of the Calgary branch of the Alberta Musical Festival and was a member of the advisory board of music at the University of Alberta. He was conductor of the Calgary Light Opera Society; conductor of the choral group at the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art; and organist and choirmaster at Hillhurst United Church and the Zetland Lodge of Freemasons.

Mr. Higgin was an ardent sportsman and was particularly interested in fishing. He was a member of the Downtown Kiwanis club.

He is survived by two sons, Shelley and Elgar of Calgary; six grandchildren and two great-



**CLIFFORD HIGGIN**

... 'Lake Louise' among best-known.

grandchildren. His wife, Mary, died in Calgary in 1942.

Rev. A. Finnis Marsh will officiate at the funeral service Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in Hillhurst United Church. Gooder Bros. funeral home is in charge and cremation will be in the Calgary crematorium.

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