

THE GILE FREE CONCERTS - WILLIAM H. GILE FUND

FOR 1965 BICENTENNIAL CAPSULE

The William H. Gile Fund, which is composed of securities and cash at this writing valued at \$750,000, was established in the fall of 1959 by the will of the late Helen Gile to provide for free concerts for residents of Concord. The city has for generations enjoyed concerts by leading artists and has had dozens of musical groups, but Miss Gile's handsome legacy has provided ~~a~~ concerts which ~~in~~ larger cities in the Western World could little more than dream of. The income of around \$30,000 a year is used to pay for visiting artists, orchestras and other ensembles, permitting the fund's trustees to bring in the cream of musical performers.

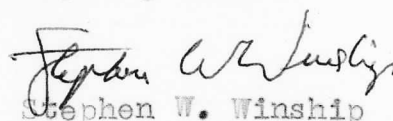
(larger)

Miss Gile was not well known in the city. She was rather a recluse, and for some years lived at the Eagle Hotel. Like her father, she was much interested in music, attending concerts here and elsewhere. Herbert W. Rainie, Concord attorney and a leader in Concord musical activities here for forty years, was acquainted with Miss Gile and recalled chatting with her frequently about music and musicians.

When the will was made known, Mr. Rainie was named as a trustee of the fund so established. (Her affairs had been handled by I. Reed Gourley, first chairman of the board of the Concord National Bank.) Under the will's terms, Mr. Rainie was to name two other trustees, the trio to administer the fund, arrange for an auditorium, handle the public and the like. The bank was named by the will as financial administrator. Mr. Rainie selected Miss Angela Annichiarico, a highly accomplished pianist and piano teacher, easily one of the most popular young adults in the city; and J. Richard Jackman, president of the Rumford Press and chairman of the Board of the Blanchard Press after it acquired Rumford in 1962. On Miss Annichiarico's tragic death in a fire, Donald G. Rainie, attorney and son of Herbert Rainie, also a leader in musical activities, was named to succeed her.

Among the artists and groups which have appeared are the Boston Symphony Orchestra; the Pittsburg, Detroit, Cleveland and Warsaw (Poland) Philharmonic Orchestras; Marion Anderson and Roberta Peters, soloists; The Yugoslav State Ballet; the Robert Shaw Chorale; and Fred Waring's Orchestra (the latter plays, in subdued fashion, popular music).

Because of the obvious demand for tickets, the trustees arranged at the start of each season, to accept application cards from residents. Tickets would be given to applicants to insure that all were admitted to at least one concert. The Capitol Theater, normally used for motion pictures, but having the largest permanent seating capacity in the city, has been the site of all performances to date. During the last several years five concerts have been presented during each fall-winter-spring season.



Stephen W. Winship
Pres. Community Concerts Assn.