

Grace Kenny Floering

La Porte, La Porte County

March 10, 1906 – August 26, 1982

Grace Floering was born in Tipton, Indiana to Rev. Frederick G. and Edith ((Stott) Kenny. She attended Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana. She received a bachelor and master's degree in music from the American Conservatory in Chicago and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music degree from Oakland City University in Oakland City, Indiana.

For her master's degree, she composed a number for a string quartet. Some of her other compositions were a cantata, a vocal solo and a song entitled "*I Love La Porte*" composed for La Porte's Sesquicentennial in 1982. For many years, the choir of St. Paul's United Church of Christ traditionally performed one of her compositions entitled "*There is a Green Hill Far Away*."

For 18 years, she was organist at the First Baptist Church, director of the hand bell choirs and music leader for the junior department of the church school. For several summers, she served as staff organist for the American Baptist Assembly at Green Lake, Wisconsin. She was a member of the Board of Managers of the Indiana Baptist Convention for six years. She worked 29 years for the various school music department in La Porte County and was elementary music supervisor. She retired in 1971.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church, Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians, Amateur Music Club, La Porte County Retired Teachers, Delta Kappa Gamma, Teachers Honorary Society and Pi Beta Phi Social Sorority.

Her son, Kenny, was stationed in the Philippines at Clark Air Force Base when he married Manuella. Kenny served four years in the US Air Force and later was a draftsman and designer at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut. That company built submarines for the US Navy. Mrs. Floering was grandmother of two children.

She was the first person ever honored by the Baptist Church, when in 1977, church members donated "love gifts" to finance her dream of a 10-day trip to Israel. This was in appreciation of her many years of service.

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This profile was compiled by Fern Eddy Schultz, La Porte County (IN) Historian

References will be published at the end of Women's History Month.



Photo Courtesy: La Porte County Historian

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