



Vinton G. Pratt

May 17, 1914 - May 16, 2007

Vinton G. Pratt died Wednesday, May 16, 2007. He was born May 17, 1914 in Bristol, Connecticut, son of Elizabeth and George Pratt. A 75-year member of South Church, he lived most of his life in New Britain. As a young man he was an accomplished violinist and later played bass in local orchestras. During World War II he served in the United States Maritime Service where he was responsible for administering USO shows.

Employed by Stanley Works for 30 years, he also was lighting consultant for the Mark Twain Masquers, New Britain Repertory Theater, and Wesleyan's '92 Theater among others. In 1967 he left his position as Sales-Service Manager of the Hardware Division to become Technical Director for the Creative Arts Center at Wesleyan University, where he taught courses in theater production and stage lighting. He spent 6 years designing and supervising the installation of rigging, lighting and other special equipment in the 11 buildings of the then new Center for the Arts. The system he designed for the theater represented the most advanced technology for theater lighting at the time. While at Wesleyan he handled lighting and staging for artists such as Twyla Tharp, Pilobolus Dance Theater, and Nikolais Dance Theater. His theatrical career spanned more than 40 years, creating lighting for over 500 productions. He retired in 1984 and enjoyed summering in Cape Porpoise, Maine.

He leaves his wife, Dorothy S. Pratt, two children, Susan E. P. Penney and

Peter A. Pratt, a son-in-law Hugh K. Penney, and two grandchildren, Nathan and Andrew. A memorial service will be held at the Erwin Chapel at South Church, 90 Main St., New Britain on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. A reception will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the South Congregational Church Memorial Fund in his name. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain, is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy by clicking on "GUESTBOOK" at the bottom of this page.

Tribute Wall

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“ I graduated from Wesleyan in 1975 as an English/Theater major and I specialised in lighting so had a very close relationship with Vin. I will always remember him as a wonderful teacher. He was demanding but also wise and tremendously helpful. He was a brilliant technician but he also had a deep artistic appreciation for the beauty and power of light and color. As a senior, I was horribly overextended working on multiple shows for others as well as attempting to mount my own senior production. I was in despair and one night I went into the 92 theater only to discover that Vin had organized some crew to assemble most of my design on stage, using my specs. It looked so beautiful I almost cried. He did not baby me but he knew how much I needed a helping hand and he gave me one. My project was finished on time and successfully and I was able to cover all my other shows as well. I never forgot Vin's generosity.

To all his family and friends I extend my sympathy. I know Vin will be deeply missed.

alice m. clark - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM