

MEN Monday 11 mar 1974

# Retired Bedford Teacher Dies

TEMPERANCE — Mrs. Grace May Stratton, 89, a Bedford Public Schools teacher for 45 years before retiring in 1956, and active in her later years as a composer of music and lyrics for school songs and hymns, died Sunday in Riverside Hospital, Toledo.

A resident of the Bedford Township region for 70 years, she had been ill for three months. She lived at 1049 W. Temperance Rd.

Friends may call at the John Ciroch Funeral Home, Temperance, after 7 tonight and until 9 p.m. Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church, Temperance, with the Rev. Richard

Nyberg officiating. Burial will be at McClure, Ohio.

A native of McClure who taught school for four years in Ohio before moving to Bedford Township, she was the daughter of John and Mary (Dull) Kerstetter. She was born July 21, 1884, in Henry County, Ohio.

Mrs. Stratton married Benjamin P. Stratton Nov. 27, 1930, in Temperance. He died in 1934.

She taught at the former Wood School in LaSalle Township and then shifted to old Temperance Elementary School to handle 1st and 2nd graders for 15 years.

Later she became a 5th and 6th-grade teacher and was with those pupils in February, 1946, when that building burned.

A former student at Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) at Ypsilanti, Mrs. Stratton studied music for four summers at Boulder, Colo.

Her hobby was composing music and in 1965 a long-play record album of hymns she had written was recorded, featuring members of the Temperance First Baptist Church choir and friends. She was a member of the church, serving in the choir and as a Sunday school teacher.

She began writing songs as a teacher and many were used in plays given by her students.

Surviving are a brother, Gale Kerstetter of Temperance, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by three sisters.