

INFORMATION ON THE FUNERAL AND BURIAL OF COLE PORTER

JUNE 9,1891 - OCTOBER 15,1964

Graveside services were conducted here at Mt. Hope Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 18, 1964.

Mr. Porter was buried in a solid bronze casket with a suntan velvet interior manufactured by the Batesville Casket Company here in Indiana. The vault was solid copper.

Paul Studebaker was the sexton of the cemetery at the time and recalled that there was not a procession from the funeral home to the cemetery, but that there were a number of limousines and big cars throughout the grounds.

Mr. Porter's casket was draped with a large blanket of roses that completely covered the casket and touch the ground. Many of those attending the service came and threw coins into the grave before it was filled in honor of Mr. Porter. He was laid to rest in his families' lot in section C of the cemetery. His grave was hand dug and the sod replaced so that there was no evidence of just being dug.

The Cole family lot is marked by one large monument in the shape of a dome with the Cole name. Along both sides is a walk way with smaller dome monuments for family members. Cole Porter is buried on the left hand side the second monument from the Family Stone.

Cole Albert Porter June 8, 1891 to October 15,1964

Was born to Samuel Fenwick and Kate Cole Porter at 102 East Third Street in Peru, Indiana; the home remains today at the corner of Third and Huntington.

Because he was the only survivor of three children, Kate was a devoted mother who was determined that her son would become a musician and gentleman. At the age of 5 he had already completed 18 months of kindergarten and was practicing the piano two hours every day. At the age of 6 he began to learn the French language. He also took the local train to Marion,

Indiana on Saturday to the Marion Conservatory of Music where he took violin lessons.

When Cole was a young boy growing up he found more companionship in his music than with children his own age. As his musical talent began to develop he not only played, but composed as well. At the age of 10 he wrote both the words and music to an operetta titled "Song Of The Birds." And, at the age of 11 his mother paid a publisher in Chicago to print 1 00 copies of his "Bobolink Waltz." As gifts to their friends and family.

At the age of 14 Cole was the standby pianist at Peru's movie theater and was writing, acting, and directing plays at his school.

Cole enrolled at Yale University, where several of his glee club and football songs achieved considerable popularity. After Yale he entered Harvard School of Law, to appease his grandfather, but after only a semester the Dean advised him to transfer to the Harvard Music School; completing his training in Paris at the Schola Cantorum under Vincent d'Indy, where he studied until 1922.

In 1919, Cole married Linda Lee Thomas who remained his helpmate and inspiration until her death in 1954.

In 1937 he was injured in a terrible riding accident when a horse fell on top of him crushing both legs. After extensive medical treatment his right leg was amputated in 1958. Cole has lived with the pain cause by the accident for over 20 years, continuing to write his music and staging musicals, but after the amputation of his leg he never wrote again.

On September 22, 1964, Cole entered St. John Hospital in Santa Monica, California for gallstones, due to complications from the surgery died 23 days latter. His last request was to be cremated and his ashes returned to Peru. A short funeral service was held at the First Baptist Church consisting of a simple verse from John 6:25, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he be dead, yet shall live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." The Lord's Prayer followed the verse. Burial was held at the Mt. Hope Cemetery at the family lot: section Clot 22 space 1.